China TOURISM

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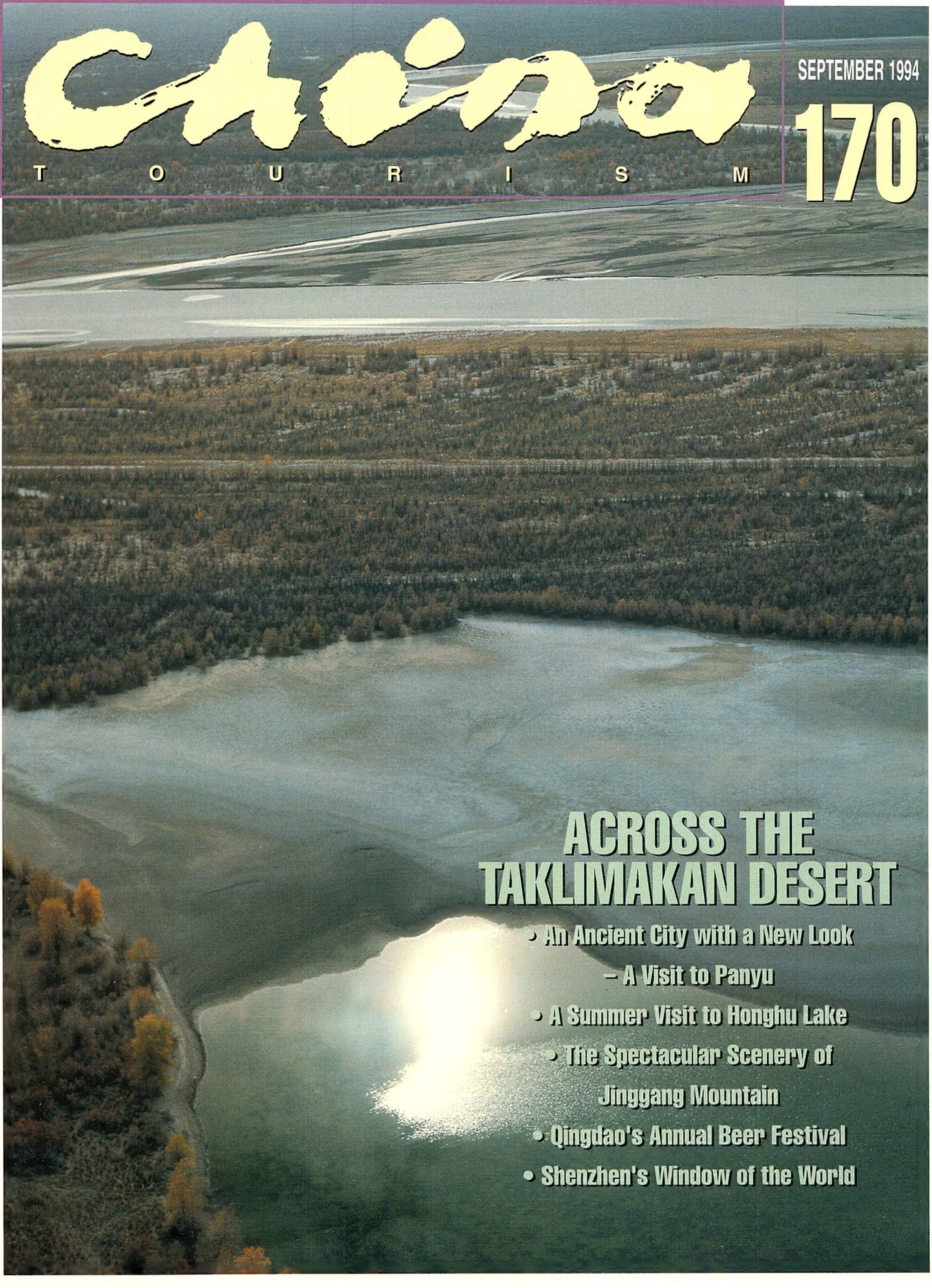

ACROSS THE TAKLIMAKAN DESERT

- An Ancient City with a New Look – A Visit to Panyu
- A Summer Visit to Honghu Lake
- The Spectacular Scenery of Jinggang Mountain
- Qingdao's Annual Beer Festival
- Shenzhen's Window of the World

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EDITORIAL

End-of-Summer Holiday Ideas

The end of summer is upon us and school holidays are coming to a close. Once the cooler autumn months arrive, travelling light becomes less and less possible, as one must be prepared for all kinds of changes in climate. Autumn also means that children are back in school, thus family holidays become harder to arrange. Now is an ideal time, therefore, to travel either alone or with the children, and in this issue we offer suggestions for both.

Obviously, the desolate and mysterious Taklimakan Desert is not exactly suited for travelling with youngsters – this trip is best done by very experienced and well-prepared travellers. Our reporter joined three other women for an exciting five-day desert crossing (during which they nearly lost their way!), and while this may not be everyone's idea of a perfect holiday, they found the desert a fascinating place full of adventure and beauty.

Perhaps the best destination for those with children is Shenzhen's newest tourist attraction, called Window of the World. Kids will love spending a day walking around this massive park, where all the world's most famous sites are reduced in size but not in grandeur. A trip to the park is both educational and fun, providing visitors of all ages with a glimpse at what awaits them in other parts of the world.

People with an interest in history and ancient architecture should consider a visit to Panyu, in southern Guangdong Province. Just a quick boat ride from Hong Kong, Panyu is home to many interesting sites and beautiful old buildings. Or if your interests are slightly less academic, perhaps you would enjoy attending this year's Beer Festival in the city of Qingdao. China's most famous beer has gained quite a reputation abroad, thus during the festival the city celebrates its tastiest export.

For nature lovers, a trip to Jinggang Mountain in Jiangxi Province should prove rewarding, as should a visit to lovely Honghu Lake in nearby Hubei. Just north of Honghu Lake is the capital city of Wuhan, where one can see some extraordinary musical instruments from the ancient Chu culture. Thus no matter what your preferred holiday includes – adventure travel, scenic beauty, historical sights, cultural exploration or just drinking beer – there should be something in these pages to satisfy everyone.

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Front Cover: A poplar forest along the Tarim River, which flows around the Taklimakan Desert *(by Zhao Cheng'an)*

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

Across the Taklimakan Desert 8

Photos & Article by Wang Miao

Long known as "the desert of death", the Taklimakan is increasingly being explored by scientists, adventurers and travellers. A team of four women recently made the five-day north to south desert crossing, discovering along the way that, in fact, there is more life in the desert than one might expect.

TRACING THE PAST

An Ancient City with a New Look — A Visit to Panyu 18

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

The city of Panyu in Guangdong Province has an extremely long history dating back to the year 214, thus is full of interesting sights. It is home to many architectural structures representative of various dynasties, and Humen Fort, where battles were fought during the Opium War.

Relics of the Chu Culture: Hubei's Ancient Musical Instruments 38

Photos by Hao Qinjian
Article by Li Youping

The State of Chu held sway in the Central Plains from 770-222 B.C., and during that time had a highly developed culture and civilization. This has been confirmed by the extraordinary bells and other instruments found in Hubei in recent years.

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

A Summer Visit to Honghu Lake

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Article by Fang Fang

The southern part of Hubei Province is a fertile area with many lakes and rivers, including beautiful Honghu Lake. In late summer, fishing is prohibited on the lake and all varieties of aquatic life flourish, covering some 98 per cent of the lake's surface. The cleanest freshwater lake in the country, the water is unpolluted and so clear that one can see right to the bottom.

The Spectacular Scenery of Jinggang Mountain

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Article by Peng Zhen Ge

Jinggang Mountain in Jiangxi Province is well-known in China as being the location of the Red Army's first base. These days, however, visitors go there mainly for the scenery: lush forests, great waterwalls, lovely rural villages, streams, pools and much more.

SPECIAL REPORT

Qingdao's Annual Beer Festival

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Photos & Text by Ren Xihai

The city of Qingdao in Shandong Province has become synonymous with Qingdao beer, now sold in many countries over the world. To celebrate this local speciality, every August the city holds a Beer Festival that attracts thousands of beer lovers from China and abroad.

GUIDE TO TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Shenzhen's Window of the World

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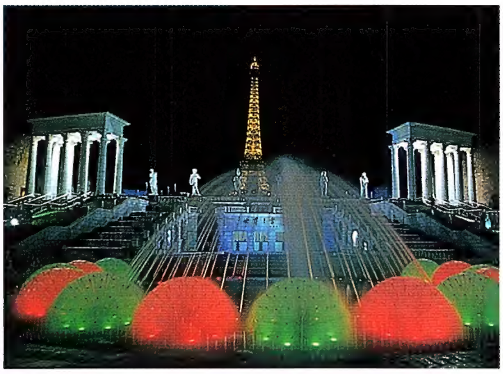
Photos & Article by Shi Bao Xiu



Have you always dreamed of taking a round-the-world trip but are unable to afford such a luxury? Shenzhen's newest tourist spot — Window of the World — is your solution. All the major monuments and famous sights in the world are recreated here at one-third their original size, so now anyone can "see the world " in just a few hours!

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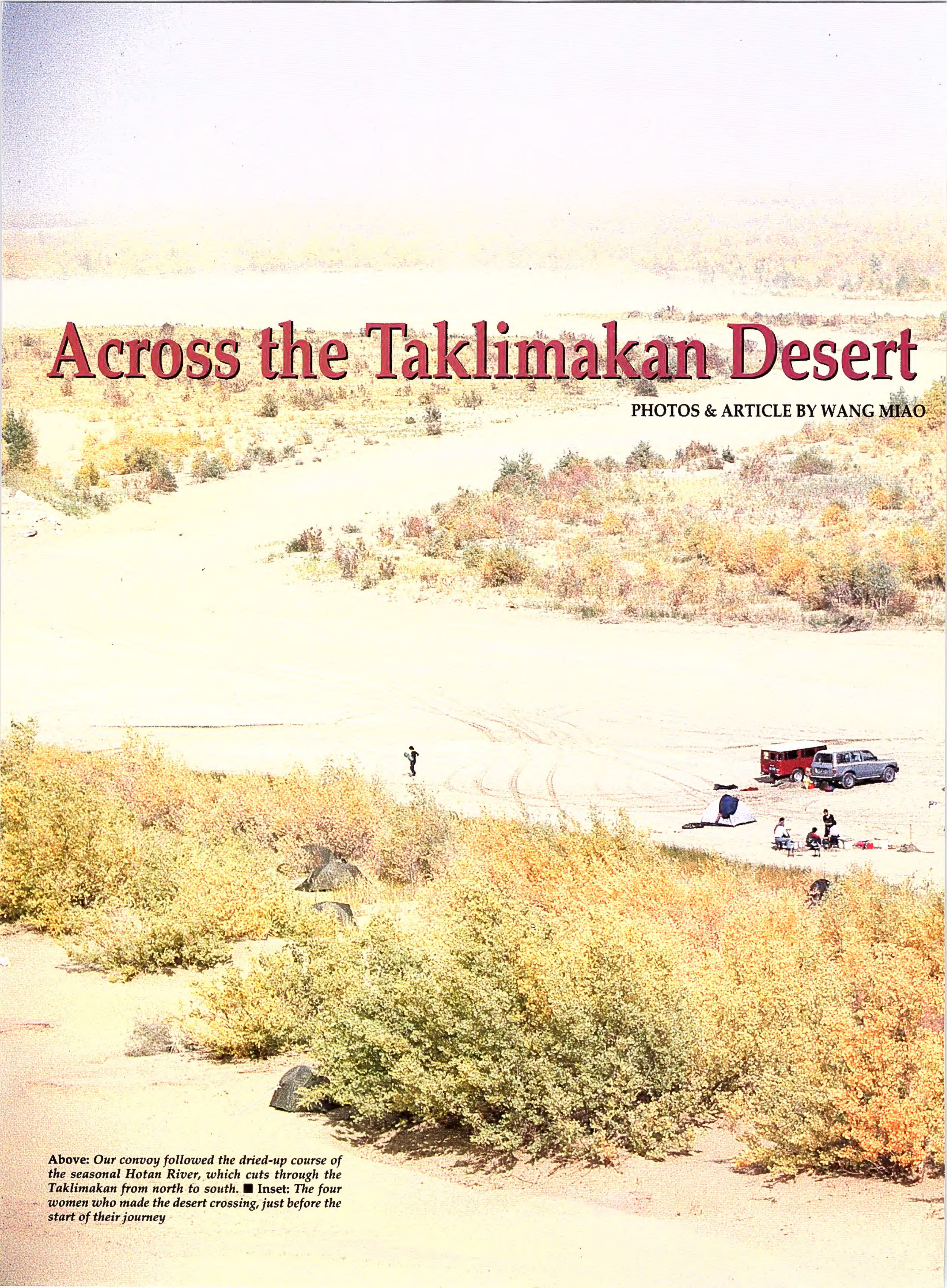
Across the Taklimakan Desert

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY WANG MIAO



Above: *Our convoy followed the dried-up course of the seasonal Hotan River, which cuts through the Taklimakan from north to south.* ■ **Inset:** *The four women who made the desert crossing, just before the start of their journey*

Setting up tents at the end of our first day in the desert (1) ■ *Although hot during the day, we had to build fires at night to keep warm (2).* ■ *Outside of Aksu we came upon a cotton-producing region (3).* ■ *One of the people we met in the desert was this Uygur eagle seller (4).* ■ *Our vehicles left this donkey cart in the dust (5).*

Throughout history, people have described the Taklimakan Desert in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region as the "desert of death". The largest desert in China, the Taklimakan has for centuries held hidden beneath its sands the countless remains of once flourishing civilizations. Due to its dangerous and unpredictable nature, the Uygurs regard it as a forbidden area where "Once you get in, you cannot get out".

In actual fact, the 320,000-square-kilometre Taklimakan Desert is not entirely without life. A few years ago, a piece of land covering 100 square kilometres was discovered in the desert that was home to a small village of more than 200 Uygur herdsmen and their families. According to reports, the people live in log cabins built of local poplar wood and eat wild vegetables, wild fruit and wild game. They lead a quiet and simple life, getting up with the sunrise to begin their work and going to bed with the sunset.

There is no interference from the outside world, nor are there any schools or markets in the village. Knowing each other intimately, they enjoy a life of harmony and unity. Most of them do not even know what the world beyond their home is like, and have never heard anything of dynastic changes or political rule. Only a tiny number of the young men, in order to obtain the basic necessities of life, have ever left their village. When they do leave they go by camelback, carrying animal hides and traversing one sand dune after another, travelling mile after mile across the barren desert to trade their skins for salt, tea, sugar, cloth and tools. Normally a 20-day trip, lives can be lost en route if there is a sand storm.

Preparing to Cross the Desert

Such a mysterious and inaccessible place naturally holds great fascination for the intrepid traveller. Over the years, I have been almost everywhere in China, except, that is, through the Taklimakan Desert. Back in 1992, I was already making plans with a woman writer friend to visit the desert, but it was not until October 1993 that I and three other women were able to put our plan into effect.

Each coming from different locations, we flew into Urümqi, the capital of Xinjiang, to begin preparations for our expedition. We hired two cross-country vehicles: one for carrying people, the second for petroleum, food, water, and other provisions.

Setting off from Urümqi, we drove over the Tianshan Mountains and passed through Gangou, Korla, Kuqa and Baicheng, arriving in Aksu three days later. From here we were to begin our desert crossing, heading south until we reached Hotan on the other side of the Taklimakan. Having no idea if we would run into any human settlements or not along the way, we

decided that food was therefore of great importance. We prepared a big box of *nang* (a kind of local baked bread), vegetables, and a freshly slaughtered sheep which we tied to the roof of our vehicle in order to dry the meat. We also brought with us six buckets of drinking water and a huge tank of petroleum. To be able to cook on the way, we also took with us a gas cylinder, a stove and some pots, and to stay warm at night we packed pajamas, fur skins and a tent.

As vehicles can easily get trapped into the loose desert sand, it is safer to drive along the dry river-bed of the Hotan River, whose waters had recently receded. The Hotan is a seasonal river originating in the Kunlun Mountains, where the melting snow converges into a small river, flowing from Hotan and Moyu in the southern part of Xinjiang across the Taklimakan all the way up to Aksu.

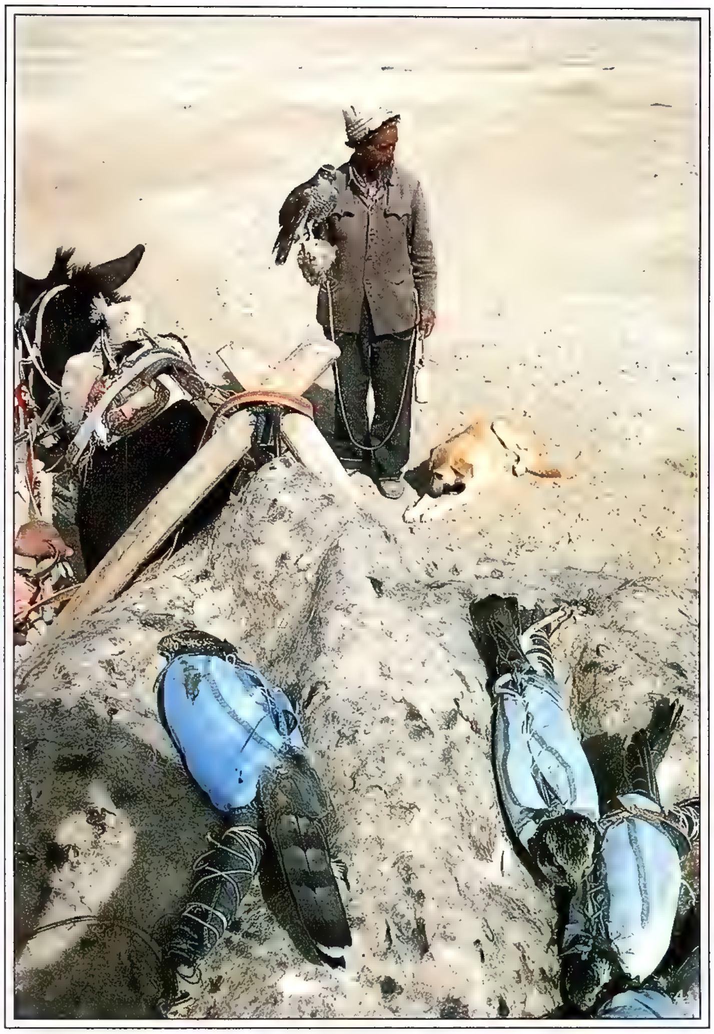
The Hotan River does not follow a fixed course, but changes direction frequently. When the water rises, the river widens to two kilometres. The water usually begins to retreat in early September, thus making late September and early October the best time to drive across the desert. Besides summer, when the expansive river water makes travelling difficult, it is also possible to cross the desert in winter and spring. Since it takes at least five days to drive across at top speed, travellers have to spend a minimum of four nights in the desert. One should bear in mind, however, that in winter the strong cold wind makes it impossible to fall asleep at night, while in spring the hurling sandy wind makes it even harder for one to find their way.

Getting Lost in a Poplar Grove

Though we had a guide with us – a manager with the Great Northwest Tourist Company – neither of our two drivers had ever driven this route. This obviously made us rather nervous. To stay on the safe side, we got in touch with another tourist company which was taking a group of German tourists into the desert. Apart from a big truck, they also had five well-equipped cross-country vehicles. We reckoned that if we followed their convoy and our vehicle got trapped, they would be able to pull us out.

Leaving Aksu, we drove past a cotton producing region where the villages were surrounded with Xinjiang cotton plants. The asphalt city road came to an end and soon a dusty road led us into the desert. Dust kicked up by the wheels of our vehicle left a long trail behind us.

We came to a poplar forest and I asked the driver to stop so that I could take some pictures. By the time I had finished, the convoy carrying the German tourists were well out of sight. It was getting dark and none of us knew how to get to the river-bed. We drove around in the forest for almost an hour and finally came upon the dried-up river, but the ravine was too deep to cross and we were on the wrong side. We had to get out and push the vehicles forward through a very difficult section, before we eventually came out of the forest and found the Germans taking a rest just nearby.



When one is deep in the desert, it sometimes seems one never will get out (1)! ■ We found this remote oil exploration base one day at the foot of a red hill (2). ■ When our wheels got stuck in the sand, everyone had to help push (3). ■ This old shepherd was leading his sheep along the river-bed to let them feed off the poplar leaves (4). ■ One has to be innovative when travelling in the desert (5). ■ The vegetation closely follows the course of the river (6).

2

Entering the Hotan River Valley, our drivers knew from experience that they should follow the newer of the two river-beds. The most recently dried-up river-bed was made of solid earth, while the old river-bed that dried up a year ago was covered with a thick layer of soft earth and sand, which makes driving very difficult.

Our First Night in the Desert

Picking the correct site for setting up a tent in the desert requires special knowledge. Putting up a tent in a forest can be dangerous, as there is always the risk of a forest fire. The best place is a flat piece of ground at the bend of a river, or in this case a river-bed. In order not to litter the area, we dug deep holes to bury our garbage. Next, we began thinking about cooking our dinner.

We could not help noticing how well-prepared the Germans were compared to us. They set up their army stove and, in spite of the strong winds, easily built a fire. We, on the other hand, worked hard to start a fire for a long time without any success. Eventually, we found a solution. We dug a pit in the sand and placed our pot in the pit, which shielded the fire from the wind.

After dinner, we began to feel a chill in the evening air, so we ran into a poplar forest and brought back dry branches to build a fire. We were hoping to get warm, but instead it scorched our fronts while leaving our backs exposed to the bitter cold. The Germans drank and sang loudly, their merry-making carried by the wind far into the distance.

When it got very dark, we put our blankets down on the floor of the

3

tent, crawled into our sleeping bags and piled our fur skins on top. We soon fell asleep, listening to the sounds of the Germans snoring loudly in the next tent. Here in the quiet of the desert, all sounds seem amplified.

Meeting Fellow Travellers in the Desert

When we continued with our journey the next day after breakfast, we found ourselves already deep in the desert. Originally we had thought that there was no life whatsoever in the Taklimakan, but our experience proved quite the contrary. We came upon Uygurs tending camels or oxen, or travelling with their donkeys. They chose a straight route through the desert from Aksu to Hotan, where they would sell their donkeys and oxen for a profit, these animals being worth more in the south.

We parked in the river-bed and climbed onto a high sand dune, where we were rewarded with a view that clearly showed the effects of the river on the environment. Along the course of the old, previous year's river, dead poplars were half buried by the sand. We learned that these diversiform-leaved poplars can only live if they are no more than half a kilometre away from the river. Further along, we came across an old Uygur man travelling with a donkey-cart. Apart from a dog, there were also a dozen eagles tied to the cart. The man turned out to be an eagle hunter, who used chickens and pigeons as bait to trap eagles on the river-bed. He told us that he was taking the eagles to Aksu to sell. As the Tajiks and Kazaks are eagle lovers, each eagle may sell for up to 3,000 yuan.

5

The road grew even more difficult on the third day. At times a section of dry river-bed would appear solid and flat, but then the car wheels would spin in the dirt whenever we slowed down even a little. Every now and again, therefore, we had to get out and push the two vehicles forward.

6

As we reached the outer edge of the desert, we came upon this solitary homestead (1). ■ *A bedroom inside the homestead (2)* ■ *A Uygur Muslim does his daily prayers (3).* ■ *Traffic increased as we reached the southern edge of the desert (4).* ■ *Poplar trees were gradually replaced by other vegetation as we left the desert (5).*

That night at our campsite at the foot of a red earthen hill, we had a very friendly encounter with three shepherds – one man and two teenagers – who were tending a flock of about 100 sheep. Each person carried a water container around his neck in front and a string of *nang* hanging down his back. They were travelling along the river so that their sheep could feed on poplar leaves.

To our surprise, they had a makeshift shed all set up in the desert. Beside the shed was their donkey and the donkey cart, on which their belongings were placed. The donkey was eating heartily and a tape recorder sent out delightful Uygur songs – perhaps one of their few modern luxuries. Before we parted, we gave them some bread, canned food and cigarettes. After all, we would soon be out of the desert.

We continued on our way and before long arrived at the foot of a red hill, where we spent the night sleeping in the open. On the fourth day, we climbed the red hill – which is called Mazartagh – with the Germans, to look at a long-deserted ancient fort. Behind the hill was an oil exploration base, which consisted of structures built with bus carriages.

On the sand dunes on the hill we found some fossilized shells, and at the foot of the hill was a dry river-bed lined with colourful pebbles. Perhaps this is why the people of Xinjiang call this dry river Agate Stream. The red and white sand from the hill, which had been blown over onto the sand dunes, dyed them into red and white patches. The different colours of sand were a result of their difference in weight. We learned that hundreds of millions of years ago, this area was part of a sea.

As our encounter with the desert was coming to an end, we thought

2

about all that we had learned about life in the Taklimakan. One of the most important lessons was that a sun block to protect against burning is absolutely essential. An adequate supply of distilled water for drinking is obviously also a must. The temperature difference during the day and night is very great, as it goes up to more than 30°C during the day and drops to zero at night. The heavy bedding which is so important at night thus becomes completely useless during the day.

On our fifth and last day in the desert, the road proved to be at its most difficult. For quite a distance the tracks departed from the river-bed. The drivers had to be extremely cautious, for the slightest deviation from the tracks would send us sliding into a quagmire. If such a tragedy should occur and there is a big truck around, it could easily pull a smaller vehicle out. Otherwise, it could take people hours to shovel enough pebbles under the wheels to pull the vehicle out.

As we finally began to leave the desert behind us, poplar forests became fewer and were replaced by reeds and wheat fields. Here at the very edge of the desert, we came across the first homestead we had seen on our journey. The roof of the mud-walled house was made of tree branches, and the family had a pump to bring up water for daily use.

As we moved on we came to the first village, where the roofs of houses were also covered with branches and twigs. Most suitable for a climate where it never rains, these roofs prevent the heat of the sun from shining through and at the same time admit enough light inside. It was only when we saw more camels here that it occurred to us that, though we had travelled through the desert, we had not had the experience of riding on a camel – the "boat of the desert". We thus took this opportunity to each take a short camel ride.

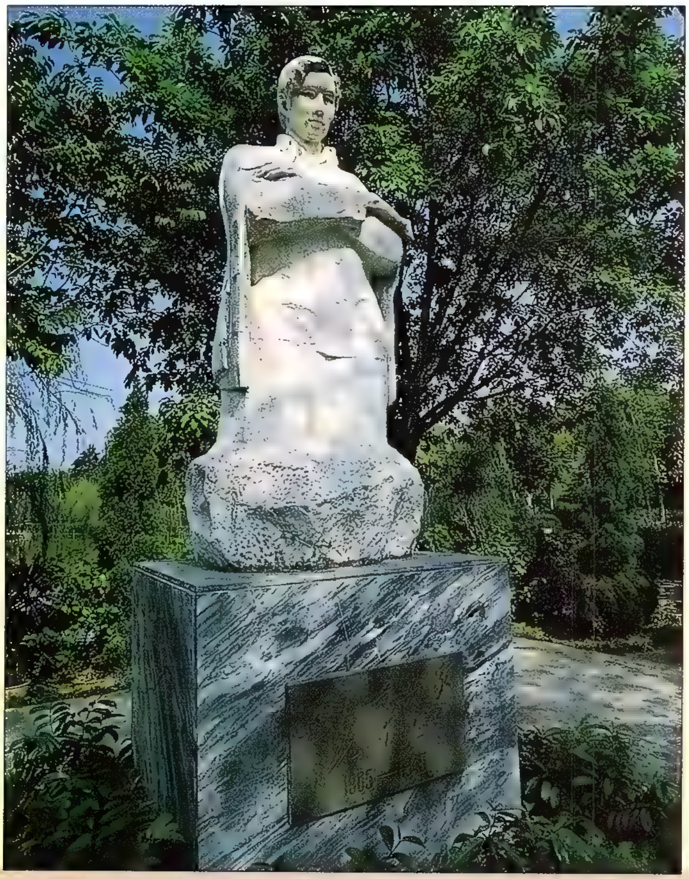
At dusk that day, we drove along the Moyu River and came to a town of the same name. We quickly searched out some food stalls and had a hearty meal of bread and shishkebabs. Then we set out again for Hotan, some 10 kilometres away. Tall poplar trees stood along both sides of the road, planted as part of a tree belt to resist the encroaching desert. Melting snow flowing down from the Kunlun Mountains has, over time, created patches of fertile land where towns such as Moyu and Hotan have been built.

The importance of water is glaringly apparent in desert areas: Without water, there can be no towns or cities, and naturally no life whatsoever. As we departed the desert and re-entered civilization, we felt both happy and sad – sad to say farewell to the mysterious, vast Taklimakan. Although we spent only a few days there, they were days we would never forget.

Translated by Huang Youyi

These villagers were having a meeting to discuss work points (1). ■ *In this light the sand looks more like fog (2).* ■ *Reeds flourish at the edge of the desert (3).* ■ *Some residents of the first village we encountered (4)* ■ *These poplar trees were planted to keep the encroaching desert at bay (5).*

A rock statue of the celebrated musician Xian Xinghai stands inside Xinghai Park in Shiqiao.



Dabei Road in the centre of the city has become a busy avenue.

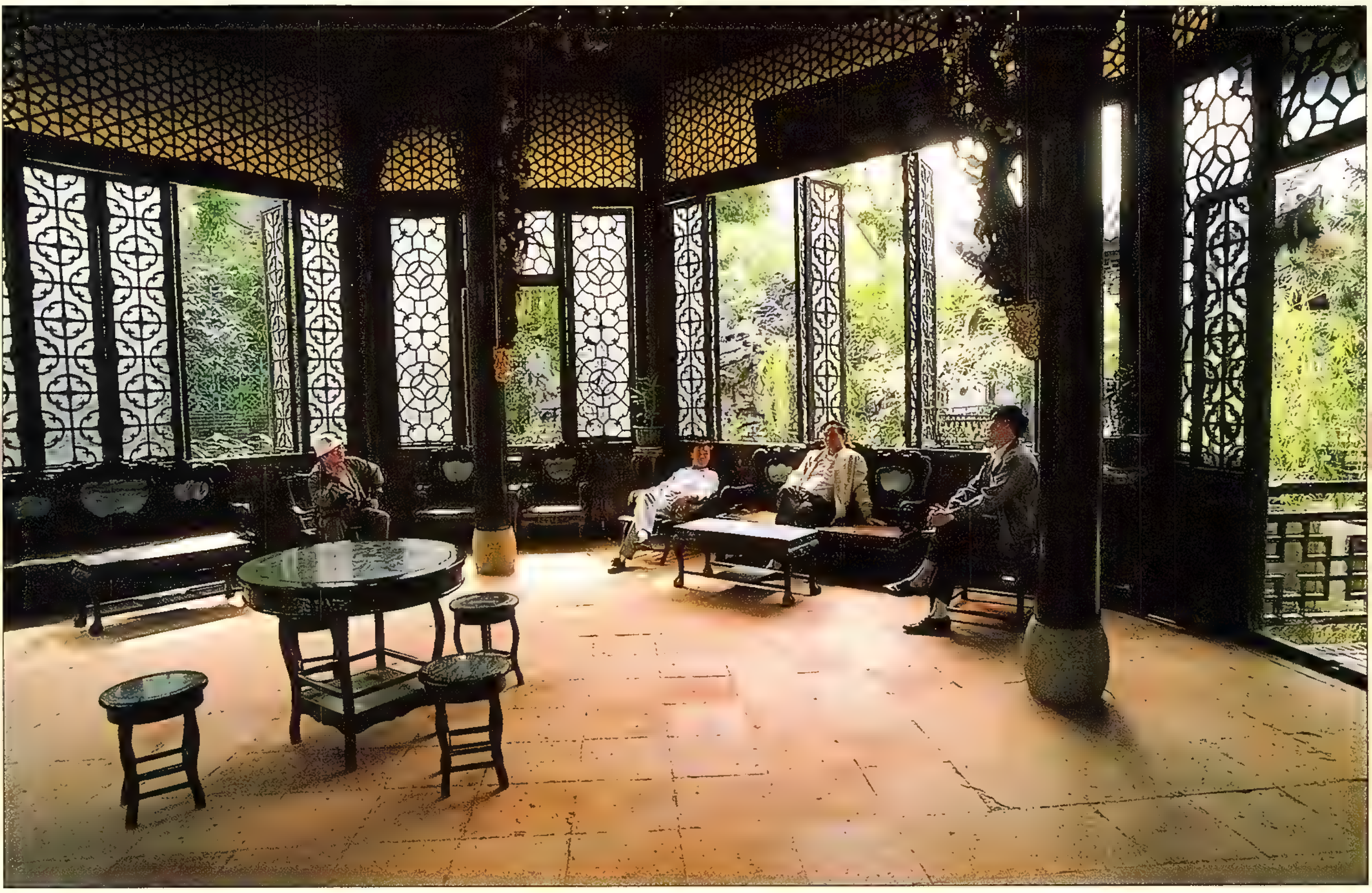
The luxurious Panyu Hotel's first group of guests were the women players in the World Football Match.

An Ancient City with a New Look
– A Visit to Panyu

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

廣東
GUANGDONG
廣州
Guangzhou
番禺
Panyu

Panyu, the oldest city in Guangdong Province, came into existence in the 32nd year (214) of the reign of Qin Shihuang, the first emperor to unify China. Having such a long history, Panyu is an area full of cultural and historical sites, such as Liugeng Hall – the ancestral temple of the prominent He family of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279); Yuyin Mansion, one of the four famous gardens of ancient Guangdong; Lianhua Mountain, a wonderful scenic spot inadvertently created by quarrying in ancient times, and the forts at Humen used during the Opium War (1840-1842).



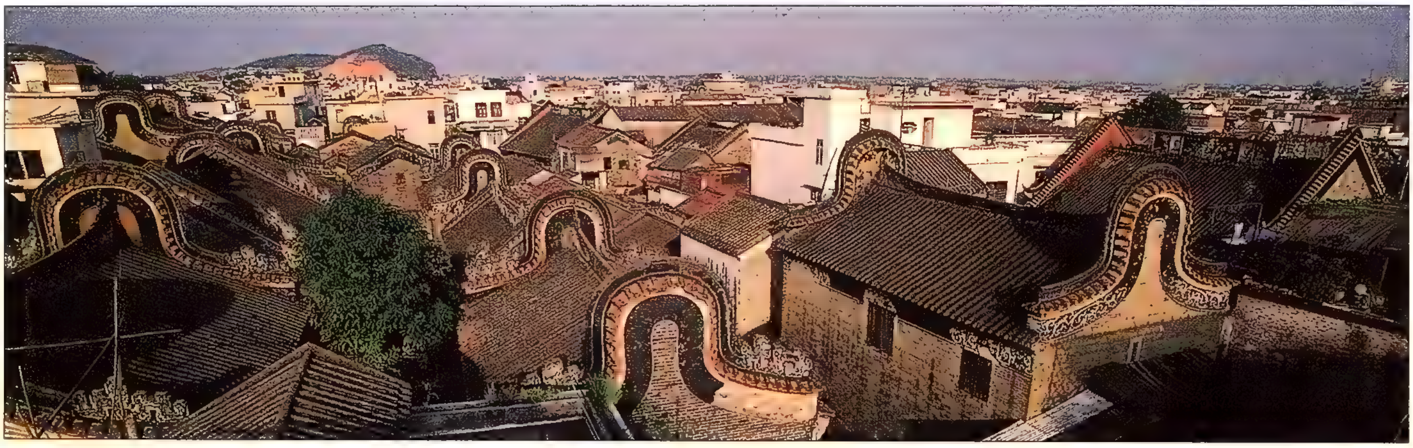
The exquisite pavilion in Yuyin Mansion is also known as the Octagonal Tower.

Since ancient times, Panyu has also produced many eminent figures: the representative painters of the famous Lingnan school of art; the three Guangdong music experts of the He family; the well-known music composer Xian Xinghai; and the celebrated Qing-dynasty writer and folklorist Qu Dajun, to name but a few. All these people were great masters renowned throughout China. This marvellous legacy of history has turned Panyu into a tourist attraction, and a visit there from Hong Kong takes only a few days.

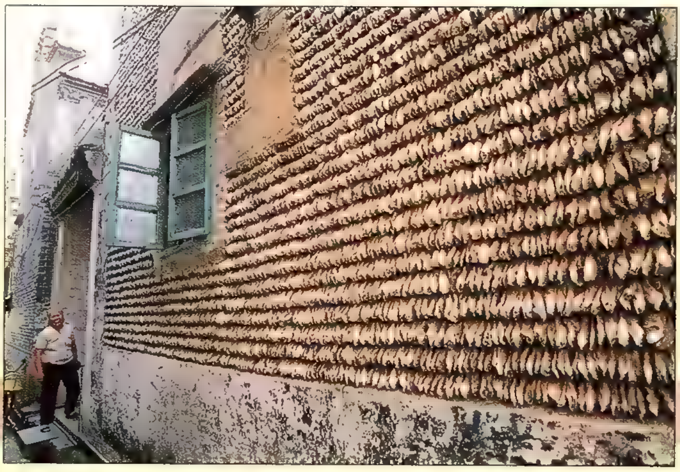
Lianhua Mountain and Shiqiao Town

Panyu is located in the middle of the Pearl River Delta, on the western side of the mouth of the Pearl River. It is 110 kilometres from Hong Kong to the port at the foot of Lianhua Mountain, a journey of less than two hours by hydrofoil. Close to Lianhua Port is a small fishing town, where tourists usually stop to feast on seafood. This is because the place is at the confluence of the river and the sea, and therefore has a great variety of both salt-water and fresh-water produce.

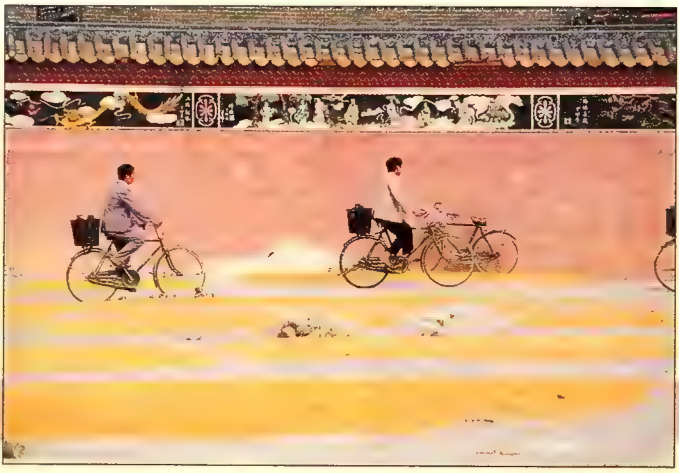
Most ancient houses in Shawan have pot-ear shaped gables.

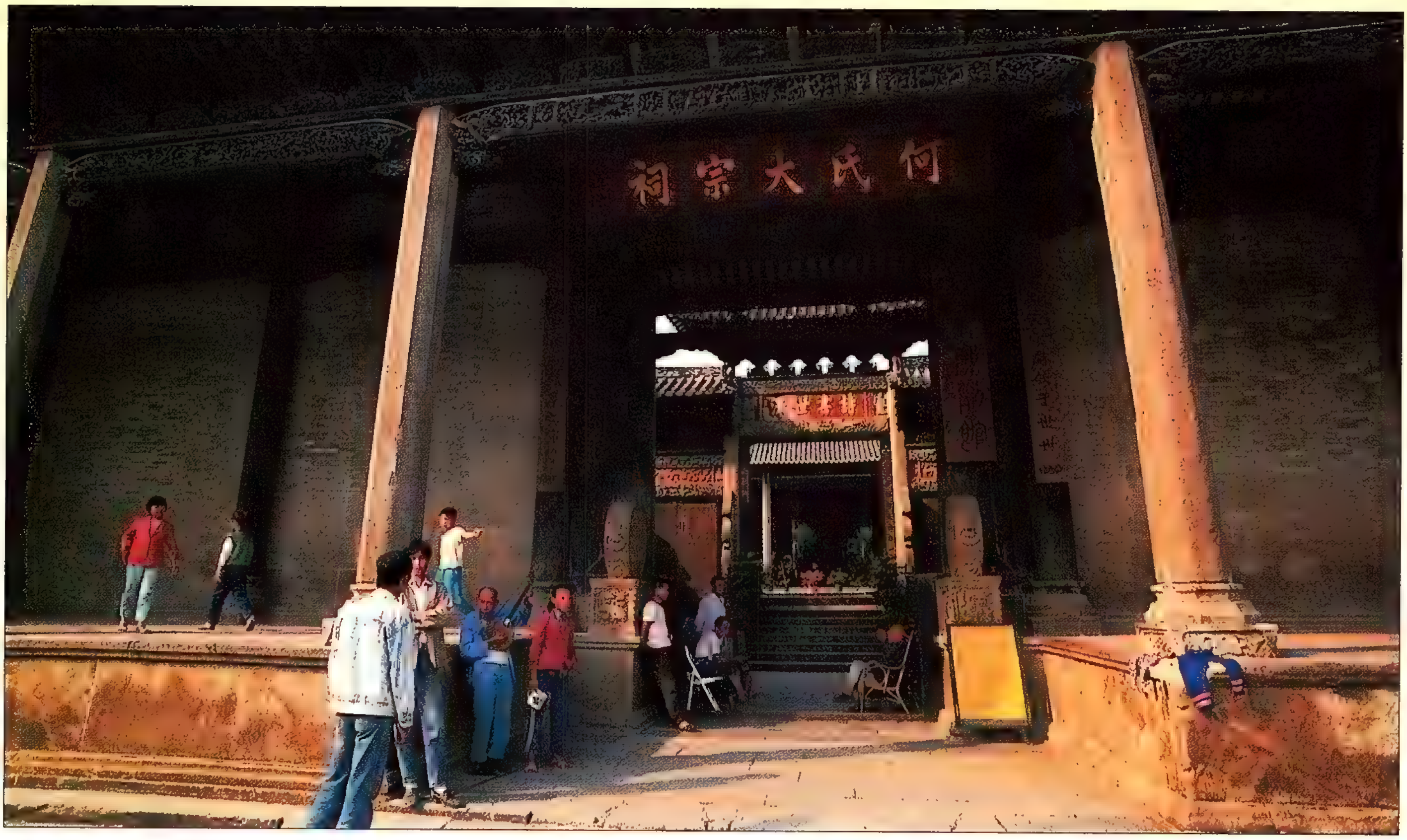


The oyster-shell wall was invented by people in ancient times who lived in the Pearl River Delta, using local natural resources. Warm in winter and cool in summer, this kind of wall is solid and long-lasting.



Beautiful designs and relief sculptures decorate the surrounding walls of the house facing Liugeng Hall.





The front gate of Liugeng Hall

Lianhua Mountain consists of over 40 hills of different sizes, on the top of which are strangely-formed cliffs and rocks. This marvellous phenomenon was created with picks and hammers by Panyu's ancient inhabitants, who quarried there on a large scale over a period of hundreds of years. According to archaeological data, these rare ancient quarries began as early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 24). Specialists have found that the stones on the tomb of Prince Nanyue Zhao Tuo (?-137 B.C.) came from Lianhua Mountain.

I boarded a minibus and half an hour later reached Shiqiao, in Panyu proper. Shiqiao is a relatively new town with busy streets and good hotels. The Panyu Hotel, which has a high-quality tennis court, is located here. Shiqiao also has many first-rate sports venues, such as the Yingdong Stadium and Yingdong Gymnasium, constructed with funds contributed by fellow townsmen now living in Hong Kong and Macau. Many national and international sports meets have been held here.

Actually, Shiqiao became a county seat only some 40 years ago, when the county administration was moved there from Xinzao. When I visited Shiqiao ten years ago it was still a small town, but now it has become a fair-sized satellite city of Guangzhou.

As a satellite city, and being located at the centre of the Pearl River Delta, Panyu is playing an increasingly important role, and greater changes will take place here. To the north, at Luoxi on Shajiao Islet in the Pearl River, and to the southeast, on the Nansha Peninsula at the mouth of the Pearl River, two new towns will be built, more modern than Shiqiao.

When offering sacrifices to ancestors, every drop of wine and every bit of food expresses the feelings of people who cherish the memory of their forefathers (by Tai Chi Yin).

Historical Reminders in Shawan

In Panyu today, the place most permeated with an ancient atmosphere is Shawan, seven kilometres away from Shiqiao. As soon as I arrived in Shawan, I felt as if I had stepped back in time. In modern times this small town has become more famous than Shiqiao. Most of its age-old houses with pot-ear shaped gables are still in existence. I climbed up Kuixing Tower – the highest building in Shawan – and the whole town immediately came into view. The uniquely-shaped houses lay row upon row, creating a beautiful picture.

In Shawan, they say that even eating in the snack bars reminds people of the past, so I found a place on the street where I could enjoy the local food. The various kinds of unique local cuisine were difficult to find outside of Shawan – even if you did by chance find them, they were just said to have "Shawan

The huge chess board in Yuyin Mansion's rear garden draws many visitors.

In Yuyin Mansion's boudoir, girls wearing old-style clothes play the guqin *and sing Guangdong opera.*

This old woman living in a traditional-style house is uncertain when it will be pulled down and replaced with a new one.

Flavour", and were absolutely no comparison to the genuine article produced in Shawan.

One of the places most worth a visit in Shawan is Liugeng (Everlasting Cultivation) Hall, the ancestral temple of the He family. There is a saying popular in the Pearl River Delta: "Shunde is famous for ancestral halls, Nanhai for temples, but Panyu is famous for both." My visit to Panyu proved the truth of this old saying: On my left was a huge ancestral hall and on my right an ancient temple. The ancestral hall was particularly spectacular. On its broad front gate were two large and awesome door-gods, and exquisitely carved pictures depicting tales of historical interest graced its drum-like stone blocks, wooden beams and pillars.

The ancestral hall was arranged in four rows. Behind the front gate was a stone archway, behind which lay a magnificent hall with 28 pillars colourfully painted with birds, animals, flowers and plants. Liugeng Hall at the rear had a verse carved on the door that read: "Moral integrity was fostered by forbears in times of old; fertile land was left for future generations to till." This couplet fully embodied the significance of Liugeng Hall.

Liugeng Hall was first built in 1279 between the end of the Song Dynasty and the beginning of the Yuan, in order to commemorate He Renjian, the fourth forefather of the He family and the first developer of Shawan. He Renjian moved to Shawan in 1233 during the Southern Song Dynasty, and from then on the He family multiplied quickly and produced many prominent figures, becoming one of the famous large families of the Pearl River Delta.

These fantasic rocks on Lianhua Mountain were created by quarrying in ancient times.

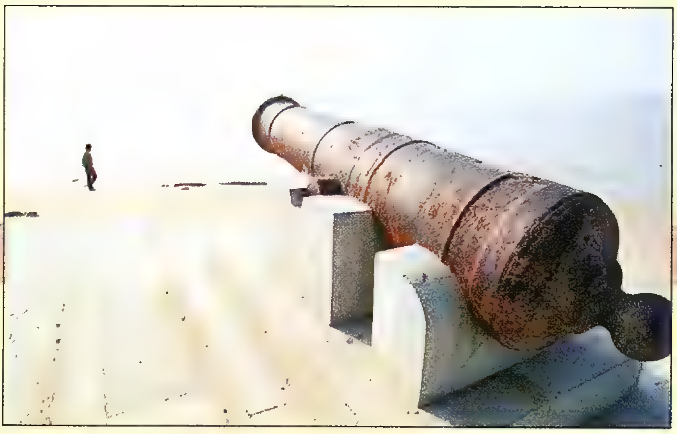
After visiting Liugeng Hall, I turned back to Shiqiao and then went on for nine kilometres to visit Yuyin Mansion in Nancun Village. Hidden deep in a small lane, the mansion appeared very ordinary when viewed from the outside and was quite different from Liugeng Hall. When I entered it, however, I found it was an exquisitely-constructed building.

Yuyin Mansion was also known as Yuyin Garden. Its original owner, Wu Bin, was a scholar who passed the provincial examinations and was offered an official title in 1867 during the Qing Dynasty. He was granted 0.2 hectares of land, on which he built the present garden.

Though small, the garden boasts beautifully constructed towers, pavilions, winding paths, corridors and pools, with carvings covering the eaves, walls, screens, terraces and stairways. Flowers and trees are cleverly planted in the limited space, and the flowers hanging from the roofs make the small garden appear very spacious. In places where the scenery may arouse emotion, scrolls with poems and paintings are hung nearby, providing visitors with much food for thought.

A fisherman hard at work at the mouth of the Pearl River

Panyu's dried vegetables are a special produce. As soon as harvest time arrives, growers begin to dry their vegetables.



The Qing-dynasty cannons on the Upper and Lower Hengdang Islets played a part in the Opium War.

The large vehicular ferry from Nansha to Humen saves drivers much travel time.

Humen – Where the Opium War Began

On the last day of my trip I decided to visit Nansha. Firstly, I wanted to see for myself the progress in the important Nansha Development Zone, and secondly, I wanted to have a look at the ancient Humen fortress located there, and the neighbouring islets in the river.

Most of Nansha consists of fields of sand, formed by silt from the Pearl River. Along the way I observed how the land was covered by a network of waterways with stretches of sand in between. In the old days inhabitants in this area were called "sand people", and toiled in the sand fields or fished in the river. Today, although there are no longer any "sand people", the area still possesses a strong pastoral atmosphere, different from the northern area which has been increasingly urbanized.

At the Nansha-Humen Ferry I was surprised to find that the queue of motor vehicles waiting for the ferry was about a mile long. Although several large ferryboats were busy carrying motor vehicles across the river, and although each boat could carry several dozen cars at a time, I had to wait for at least an hour to cross the river.

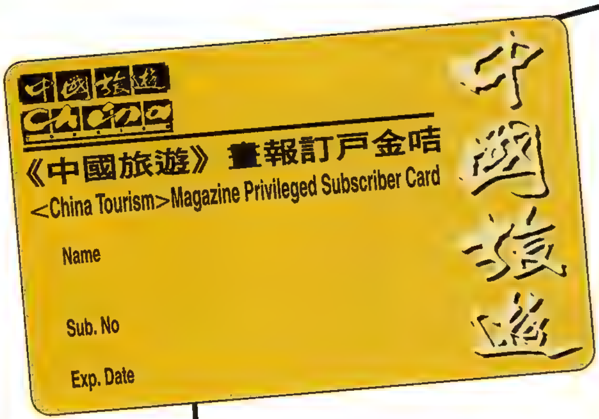
The drivers waited patiently, however, because travelling by boat instead of overland would save them dozens of kilometres. According to one plan, a modern dock with large berths, a new city, a tourist centre, a racecourse, a golf course and a yachting club are to be constructed in this area.

The Luoxi Bridge, which spans the Pearl River, connects Shajiao Islet in the middle of the river to the mainland, paving the way for a future new city on the islet.

After disembarking from the ferry, I went southward and soon reached Nanbeitai, where the presence of two cannons indicated that the Humen Fortress must not be far away. I boarded a small motorboat bound for the Upper and Lower Hengdang Islets, situated in the middle of the Pearl River. From a distance I could see several holes on the islets – obviously tunnels that had caved in. I went first to Upper Hengdang Islet and then Lower Hengdang Islet, visiting the ancient sites that are recorded in the history of the Opium War: forts, trenches, tunnels and barracks. The several dozen cannons on this side and the long-range guns lying on the other side of the river are said to resemble the upper and lower teeth of a tiger who is holding the Pearl River in its mouth. Together with the iron chains and wooden rafts set in the river, they formed a bastion of iron and were known as "a bronze door with a gold lock".

Today on Lower Hengdang Islet, many tourist facilities have been created and outdoor bathing places opened. With my tour of the area at an end, I returned by speed boat to Humen.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru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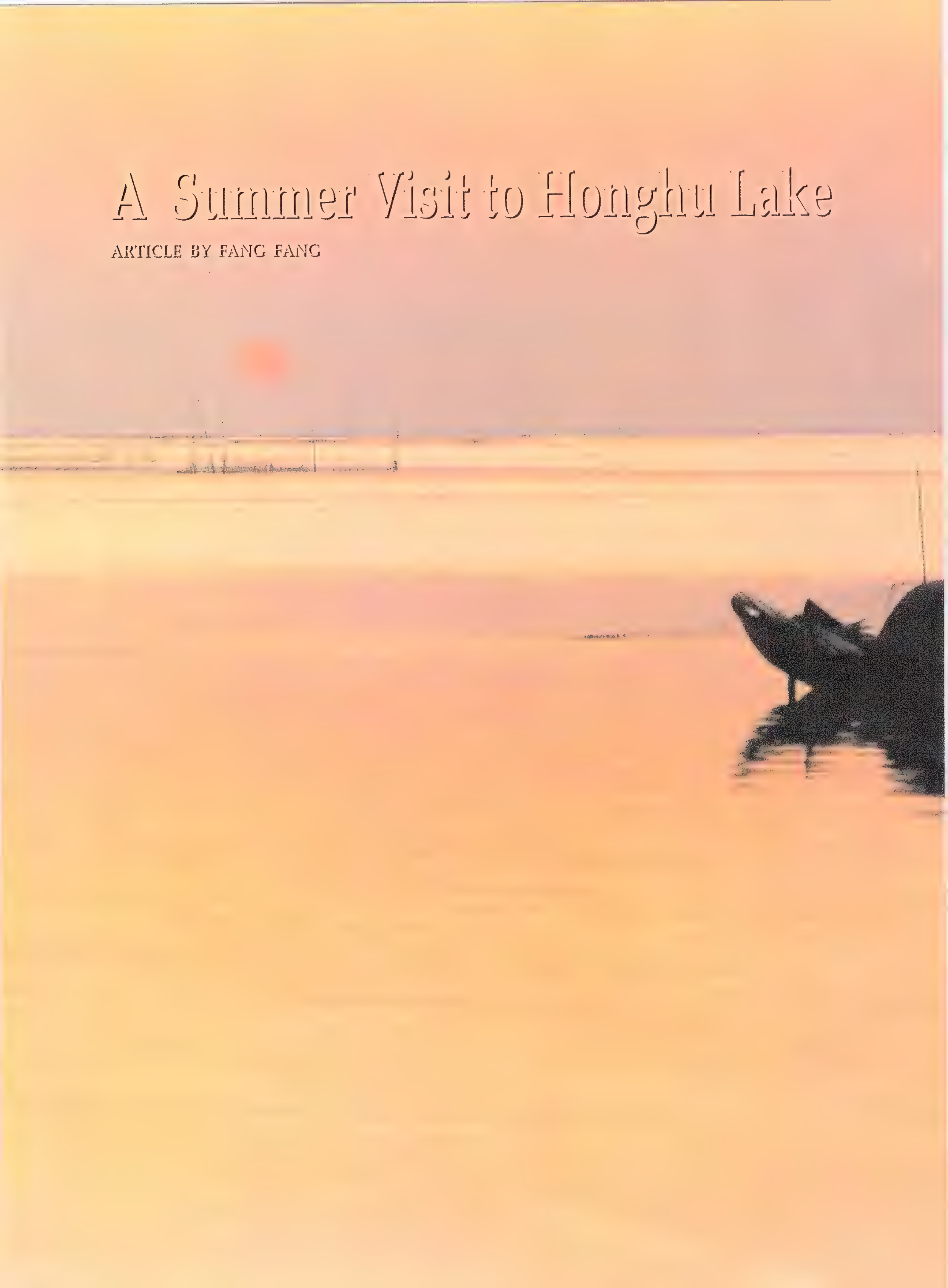
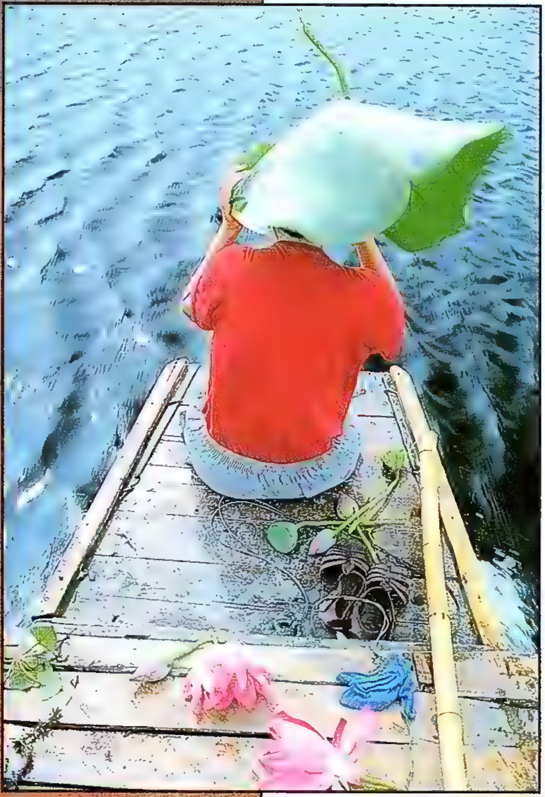
A Summer Visit to Honghu Lake

ARTICLE BY FANG FANG



Honghu Lake is the largest freshwater lake on the Jianghan Plain, and is often called "the Hundred-li Wide Lake" (by An Ge).

In July, when lotus flowers are in bloom, people pick lotus seeds and gather water chestnuts (by Wu Zhijian).



Honghu Lake, its floor covered in luxuriant waterweed, is home to many wild duck and geese (by Wu Zhijian).

Honghu Lake has clean, clear water and produces a great variety of fish. In recent years, fish have been selling at good prices, so the fishermen's living standards have greatly improved (by An Ge).

Before my first visit to Honghu Lake, located in southern Hubei Province, I had read somewhere that "Honghu Lake is a bright pearl in the Jianghan Plain." But when I got there and saw the lake's vast expanse of water stretching into the horizon, I found the description of the lake as a mere "pearl" far from adequate. However, what struck me most deeply about the lake was not its size. I had previously visited China's largest freshwater lake, Poyang Lake in northern Jiangxi, which covers an area of 3,960 square kilometres, and the second largest lake, Dongting Lake in northern Hunan, which has an expanse of 2,740 square kilometers. Compared to these two lakes, Honghu Lake, which has an area of just 402 square kilometres, is not particularly big, but its uncontaminated and clear water cannot be matched by the two larger lakes. Especially in summer, when Honghu Lake is overgrown with lush green waterweed, the water is so clear that you can see the bottom. The average transparency of the entire lake is 1.8 metres, with which no other freshwater lake in the country can compare.

An Aquatic Forest

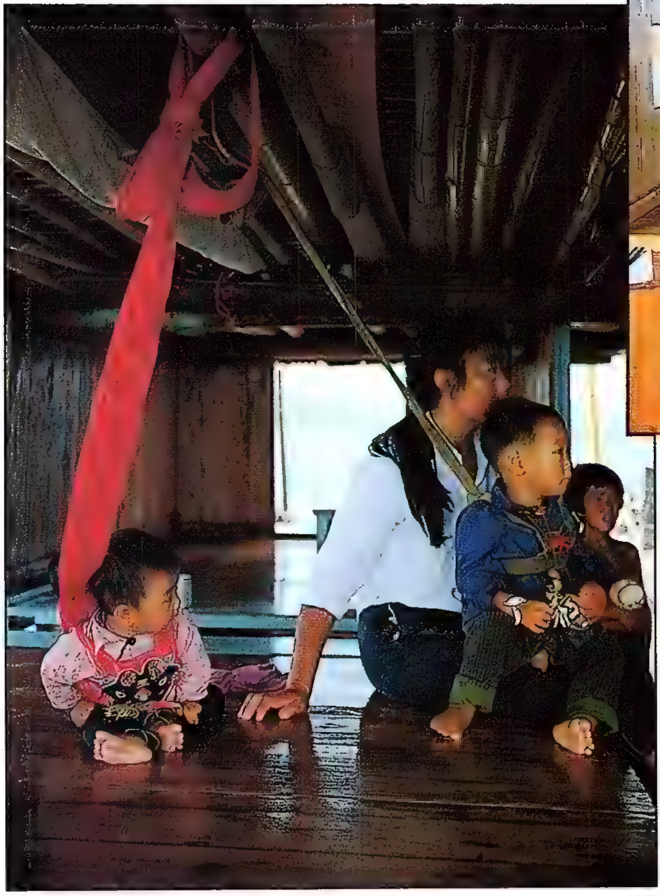
As we boarded a boat and went out on the lake, I looked down into the splashing water and found to my surprise that beneath the clear surface was what looked like a vast forest; our boat seemed to be gliding over treetops. It is said that there are 92 species of aquatic plants growing in distinct belts all over Honghu Lake. As the water varies in depth, these plant belts are clearly visible, from the shore to the middle of the lake. These different kinds of aquatic plants grow very fast and can yield 1.9 million tons a year. Such a large yield is rarely seen in the many other lakes in the Yangtse River Valley. The water plants have a high economic value; they can be used as fodder for domestic animals, fowl and fish and as raw material for green manure, paper and medicine. They are an inexhaustible supply which is constantly regenerating.

Fishing is prohibited in August in Honghu Lake. So during this time shoals of fish swim leisurely, shuttling to and fro through the forests of aquatic plants, fearing neither boats nor people. In summertime over 98 per cent of the lake is covered in water plants, leaving just a strip of water ten metres wide for boats to traverse. As our boat advanced slowly along the narrow course between the lotus plants, we could smell their sweet fragrance. Brilliant red or delicate white lotus flowers, set off by the emerald green leaves and clear blue water, created a beautiful picture.

This family on the water is returning home after buying a new fishing boat (by An Ge).

Suddenly, we heard singing coming from beyond the vast lotus patches. I turned to look and saw several colourfully dressed girls poling boats which, pointed at both ends, were moving to and fro amidst the red lotus flowers. The girls were singing while gathering lotus seeds. We shouted over to them to join us, and after a brief hesitation, they poled their boat towards ours.

Children of aquatic families are tied with belts to the boat in case they fall into the water (by Wu Zhijian).



The boat is home to fishing families, who live on the water all year round (by Wu Zhijian).

This aquatic primary school boat has two classrooms that can accommodate 60 students in six grades and four teachers. The teachers usually live on the boat (by An Ge).

After his father has returned from a fishing trip, this little boy counts the small fish in the cabin (by An Ge).

As we went to meet them our boat carved a path through the lotus leaves, but the plants grew so densely that our boat became entangled and then completely stuck. The hot sun was blazing overhead and the dense lotus leaves prevented any wind from blowing. Although we shielded our heads with the large umbrella-like lotus leaves, we were still extremely hot. In desperation, we shouted for help at the top of our lungs in the direction of the lotus-picking girls. They looked at us for a while and then laughingly rowed towards us and handed over several bamboo poles which we used to move our boat, pushing away the lotus leaves and flowers in front of us. We had to work hard for nearly an hour before we finally got our boat unstuck. Seeing us cut such sorry figures, the lotus-picking girls were rocking with laughter. We could not help laughing too, saying that now we fully understood the lotus plants of Honghu Lake.

A solemn ceremony is held before the start of the Dragon Boat race (by Wu Zhijian).

Life on the Water

To a fisherman, his fishing boat is like the shell is to a snail; it is not an instrument but a home. The home changes as people move about and goes wherever they go. As here all the rivers and lakes are connected with each other, fishermen living on boats are able to travel from place to place and make a home anywhere they like. Many of the families on Honghu Lake come from Weishan Lake in Shandong and Caohu Lake in Jiangsu. As they have lived on water for years, they have naturally formed their own small society. On Honghu Lake there are aquatic fishing villages, schools and restaurants. Fishing folk even have their own unique customs concerning matters such as marriage and sacrifices. Just as mountains have mountain gods and seas have sea gods, it is the "lake god" that is worshipped at Honghu Lake.

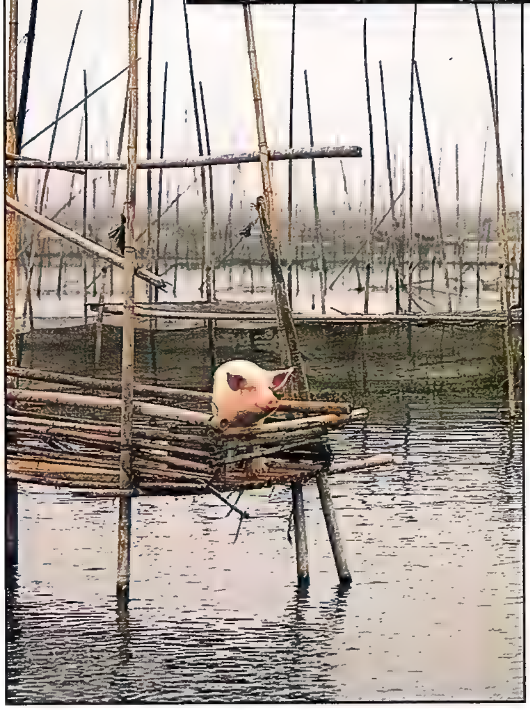
The main festival at Honghu Lake is the Lotus Flower Festival, which takes place every year on June 24, the birthday of the Lotus Flower Fairy. People pour oil on the petals of the lotus flowers, light them like lamps and then float them on the lake. It is a beautiful sight at night, with numerous tiny lamps floating like fireflies along the waves on the mist-covered lake.

However, people say that the biggest feature of Honghu Lake is its "Phoenix Boat". The Honghu Lake area is where the ancient state of Chu used to be and the Chu people worshipped the phoenix. The fishermen on Honghu Lake also follow this tradition, and on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, instead of holding Dragon Boat races like in other parts of China, the Honghu Lake people hold Phoenix Boat races. According to legend, the dragon lives in the water, whereas the phoenix remains on land in the forests,

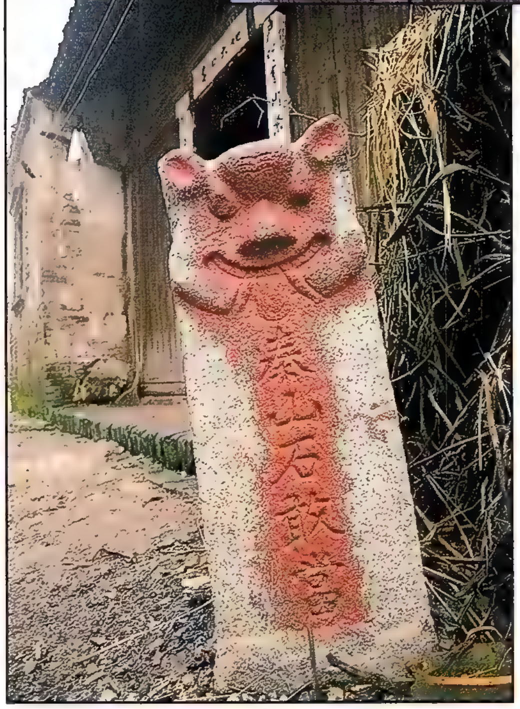
On the fifth day of the fifth lunar month there are Dragon Boat races and Phoenix Boat races on Honghu Lake. The Phoenix Boat race is said to be a custom from the Chu people, who worshipped the phoenix in ancient times (by Wu Zhijian).

◀ *Many Ming and Qing houses are preserved in Qujiawan, an ancient village on the banks of Honghu Lake (by Wu Zhijian).*

Aquatic families have many special products from Honghu Lake in their kitchens. It is said that lake fish cooked in lake water is particularly tasty (by Wu Zhijian). ▶



◀ *Aquatic families build pigsties on the water (by An Ge).*



This **tunkuo** *stone animal is placed before a fisherman's house to ward off evil (by Wu Zhijian).* ▶

Children must adopt a special posture when they "go to the bathroom" (by Ye Mao).

In summertime many visitors come to Honghu Lake to enjoy the lotus flowers and fishing (by Wu Zhijian).

so I could not understand how the phoenix had somehow been transplanted from the land to the water. I asked several people why but none could give me a satisfactory answer. They only said that the phoenix's tail looked more beautiful than the dragon's on the water. Although I did not believe that was the main reason, I had to be content with this answer.

An "All Fish Banquet"

The friend accompanying us remarked that many fishermen had become quite prosperous in recent years. They had built new houses and established homes on the lakeshore, although they still worked hard on the lake every day. Our friend then invited us to have lunch at a fisherman's home on the shore. We had originally planned to go to a fishing village on the water to eat a fish dish that was a speciality of Honghu Lake, but our friend's invitation made us change our minds so we left the boat and went ashore.

Along the banks of the lake there were newly built fishing boats everywhere and fishing nets were drying in the sun. Although we arrived unannounced at the fisherman's house, our host was not upset at our sudden intrusion and quickly began to prepare lunch. All the dishes were fish: stewed fish, steamed fish, fried fish.... Each time he dished up a plate of fish to the table, he said apologetically, "I'm really sorry. You've come at the wrong time. The lake's been closed off. I don't have any big fish, all I've got are these small ones."

Chickens raised by fishing families are kept in reeds on the lake (by Ye Mao).

I asked our friend what the most famous dish in the Honghu area was. He exclaimed, "Fish of course." Then he went on to explain: "In the Honghu area, there is a banquet called the "All Fish Banquet". Every dish is made of fish. Each dish consists of one species of fish. No two are made of the same fish, and all the dishes are cooked using different culinary styles."

Our host told us that the Honghu people love to eat spotted maigre cooked with wild rice stems. A speciality of the Honghu area, cooked in this way it is extremely tasty. Our host said, "If you come to Honghu Lake in winter there are many wild ducks on the lake and the fishermen will hunt them for you to eat. Wild duck cooked on the spot are crisp and tender but not greasy, with a rich gamy taste." We promised that we would be sure to return and try them some time.

Reminders of History

When Chinese people come to Honghu Lake, they invariably think of the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) and the famous statesman and strategist of that time named Cao Cao, as this area is the location of many important events in history. At one time Cao Cao had stationed his troops in Wulin, eight kilometres northeast of Honghu County. According to popular belief, the commander-in-chief of another kingdom, Zhou Yu, had a garrison at Chibi. The two sides engaged in a big battle there, which later became known as the Battle of Chibi. However, it was actually in Wulin, not in Chibi, that Zhou Yu battled Cao Cao. When

Huang Gai, one of Zhou Yu's generals, led his troops to launch a fire attack on Cao Cao, Cao Cao's warships were chained together around Wulin. Once the warships caught fire, the fire spread with the help of a strong wind that swept over the river and in an instant transformed the green banks into red cliffs. This is the origin of the name Chibi (Red Cliff).

Present-day Wulin Village is just opposite the location of the battlefield during the Three Kingdoms period. Around the village are many reminders of those times. About 150 metres northwest of Wulin Village is Cao Cao Bend, where Cao Cao's main forces were stationed. A folk rhyme describes the situation of that time: "Camp at Cao Cao Bend, practise horsemanship and markmanship on Mount Bopo, drill on Muyu Hill, and eat and rest at Yuanyi Bend. " Mount Bopo, Muyu Hill and Yuanyi Bend all are near Cao Cao Bend. At a place 700 metres northwest of Wulin is a pond called "The Pit of Ten Thousand Corpses", which is the location of a mass grave for Cao Cao's men killed at the Battle of Chibi. The local people regard this as a holy place, and even today they go there to burn incense and offer sacrifices. Passing all these historical landmarks that have withstood the elements for centuries was like stepping back in time.

When it came time for us to leave Honghu Lake, we still felt we had not seen all there was to see. It seemed that we had rushed through our visit as if we were "looking at flowers on horseback", although our friend had been an excellent host. Just as our bus was about to leave, he suddenly thought of something and said, "I'm sorry I haven't taken you to see all of Honghu's wonderful arts and crafts." Then he counted off on his fingers all the things we had missed: Honghu's freshwater shell carvings, hand-embroidered slippers, feather fans.... His vivid descriptions made us regret that he had not told us earlier. However, he quickly comforted us by inviting us to come and visit again the following year.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

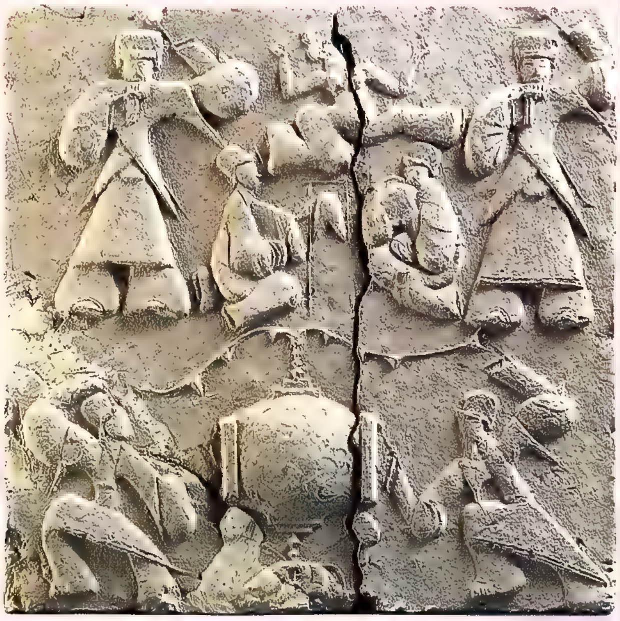
When harvesting lotus seeds, even small children come to lend "a helping hand" (by Shen Mengqiu).

Aquatic families hold a feast to entertain guests when a new boat is launched (by Wu Zhijian).

Young visitors help the boatman row his boat, but are more of a hindrance than a help (by Wu Zhijian).

Relics of the Chu Culture: Hubei's Ancient Musical Instruments

PHOTOS BY HAO QINJIAN • ARTICLE BY LI YOUPING



This Eastern Han-dynasty brick unearthed from Dangyang, in Hubei Province, is carved with pictures which depict music-related folk customs.

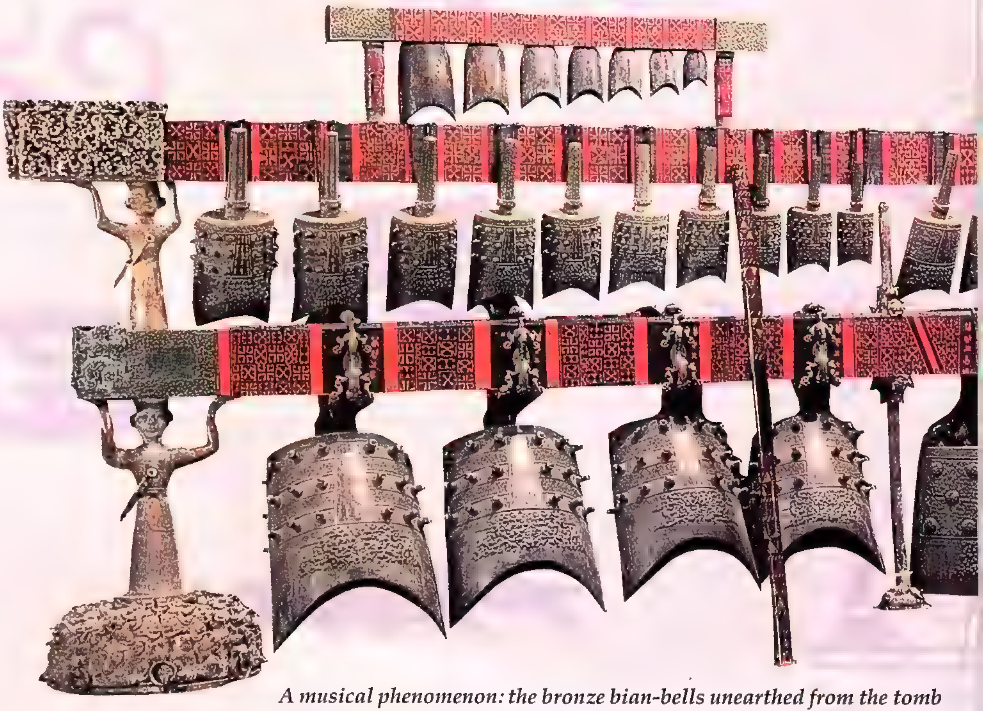
Magic and Music

The people of Chu, as pious observers of religious rituals and worshippers of celestial beings, loved magic and sorcery. Their mystical culture was closely associated with the romanticism which permeated the music and dance of the time. Legend has it that when his capital city had already fallen into enemy hands, the Duke of Chu was still praying for assistance from the gods by waving a bird's feather and beating drums. The duke's fatal obsession with sorcery testifies to its popularity at that time.

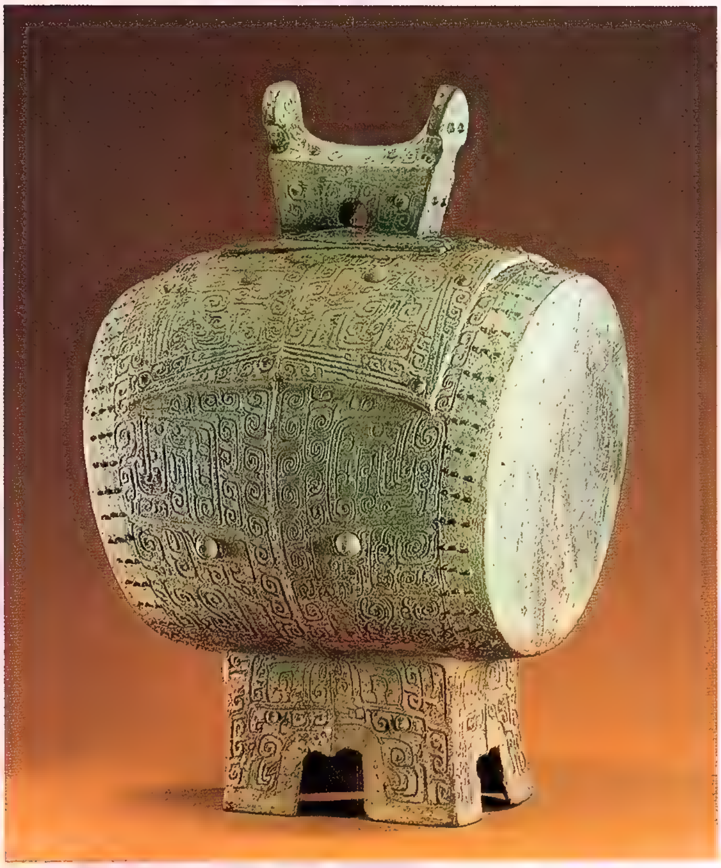
The Chu style of dance, which featured well-developed women dancers with slim waists and long necks, and emphasized long, floating sleeves and curving body movements, had a direct impact on Chinese music and dance for centuries to come.

The Chu people were very gifted singers. Their ancestors who lived in what is today's Hubei Province during the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-770 B.C.) were both skilled at choral singing and capable of vocalizing pieces which called for high singing skills. Some Chu songs are so popular that their titles are now often used to label types of Chinese art: popular art is known as "xiali baren", which is a combination of the titles of "the Song of the Rustic" and "the Song of the Poor"; and refined, high-class art is called "yangchun baixue", which combines the names of "the Song of Spring" and "the Song of White Snow".

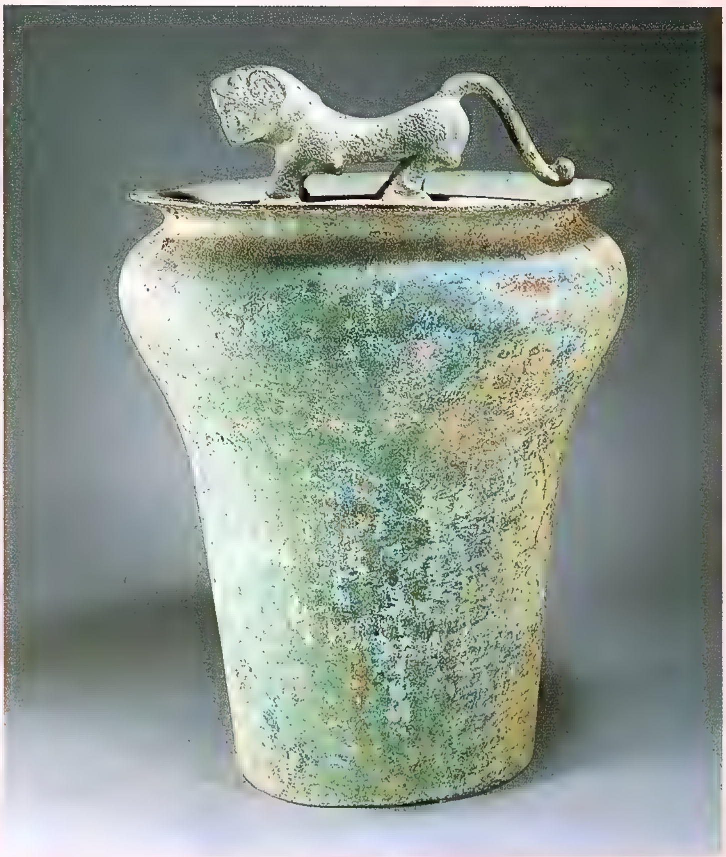
Due to the area's rich cultural heritage, stories abound in Hubei of singers and musicians from times past. Once, when the famous scholar-musician Yu Boya was playing the lute by the Yangtse River, a woodcutter named Zhong Ziqi overheard him and instantly fell in love with his music. Yu, curious, asked the man what he had really heard. Zhong replied that he had heard a spray of water gurgling down from a tall mountain. Yu felt flattered. Later, he brought his lute



A musical phenomenon: the bronze bian-bells unearthed from the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zheng of the Warring States Period



A Shang-dynasty (c. 16th-11th century B.C.) bronze drum, unearthed in Chongyang



A chun-bell, an indigenous musical instrument popular among the people of Chu

and endured the hardships of a long journey to find his admirer, only to be told that Zhong had died. The musician was so sad that he smashed his lute to pieces. "Now that the only man who understood my music is gone, who else can I play for?" he said. This tale is still very much alive on people's lips today.

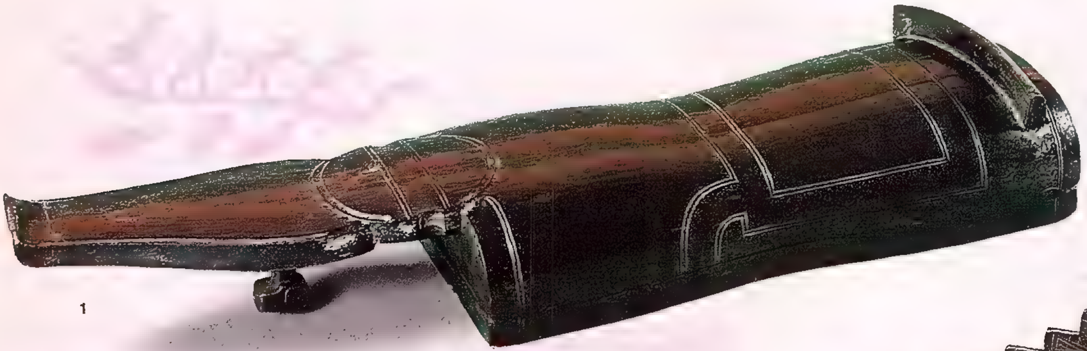
In 582 B.C., Zhong Yi, a musician turned general, was taken prisoner after losing his war with the State of Jin. One day, in prison, he was playing southern Chinese music on a lute made in the State of Jin. The Duke of Jin and his ministers were so moved by the music that, to Zhong Yi's great surprise, they freed him and treated him as a friend. As a result the two states became staunch allies.

Music was such an important part of Chu culture that the government of the State of Chu even had a specially appointed Minister of Music. Judging from the musical instruments unearthed in Hubei Province, Chu music was divided into two types: imperial chamber music and bed-time easy listening music. The former was played mainly on bronze bells and stone chimes, which combined to evince solemnity and reverence; the latter, played mainly on stringed instruments and bamboo flutes, tended to be romantic and relaxing.

Bian-Bells — A Musical Wonder

Historical documents show that during the Spring and Autumn Period, Duke Zhuang of Chu often went to Zhanghua Terrace at his summer resort to listen to concerts featuring instruments made of metal, stone, gourds and bamboo. At the time, eight categories of musical instruments were available for orchestras. The other four categories not used in orchestras were those made of clay, leather, string and wood.

The metal musical instruments included bronze bells that came in eight different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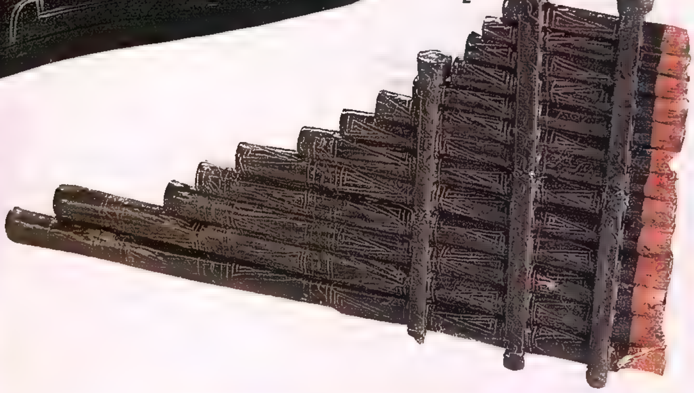
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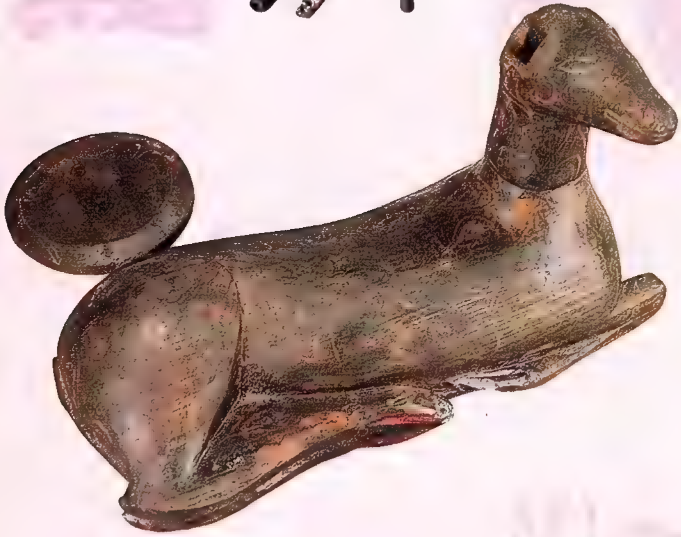
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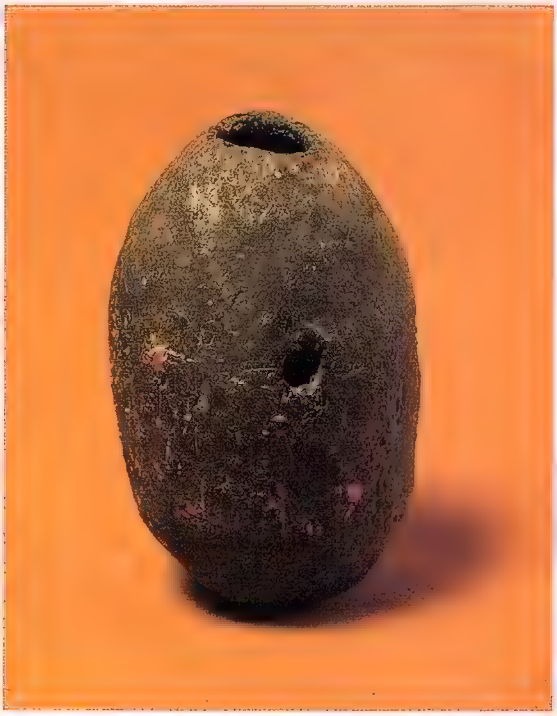
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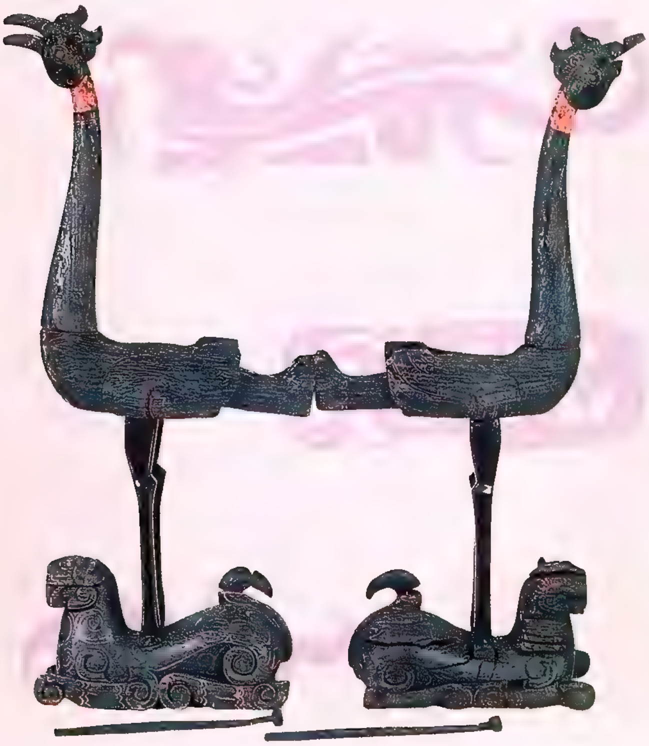
A ten-stringed zither, another discovery from the tomb of Marquis Yi of the State of Zheng (1) ■ Pitch-pipes made of bamboo, excavated from the tomb of Marquis Yi of the State of Zheng (2) ■ A deer-shaped painted drum unearthed in Jiangling (3) ■ This clay xun*, an ancient egg-shaped wind instrument with holes, was unearthed in Macheng and dates back to the Neolithic Age (4). ■ This drum stand, which dates back to the Warring States Period, was unearthed from an ancient tomb in Jiangling (5). ■ This clay bell, discovered in Tianmen, is a musical instrument which dates back to the Neolithic Age approximately 4,000 years ago (6). ■ These Tang-dynasty terracotta figurines in the image of musicians were discovered in Wuchang (7). ■ A set of chimes, unearthed from the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zheng (8)*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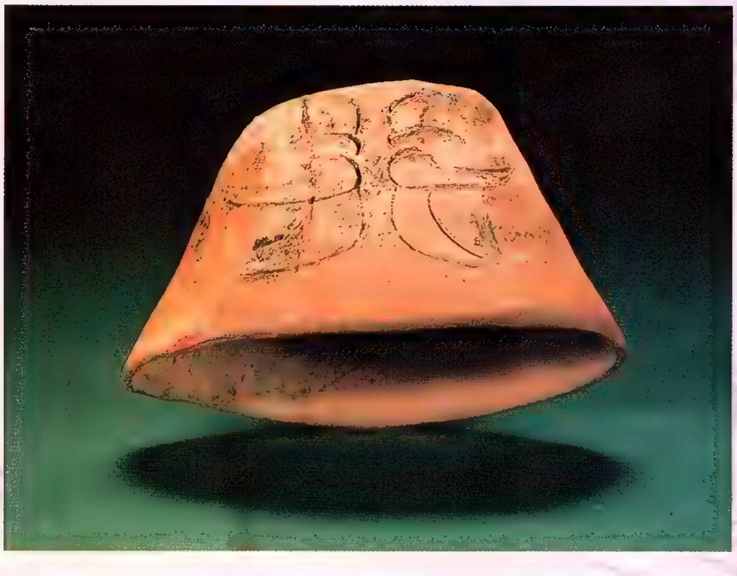
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shapes. The Chu people loved bells; even the symbol of the throne was a bell inscribed with nine dragons. No trace of that much-vaunted bell has been found to date, but the bian-bells unearthed from the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zheng, a vassal state of Chu, are regarded as equally wondrous.

These bells, excavated from Hubei's city of Suizhou in 1978, are arranged in eight groups according to size and pitch, and hang in three rows on an oblong frame. Nineteen of them, known as niu-bells, are placed in the middle and bottom rows. The façade and sides of each bell can deliver double tones in unison at major-third or minor-third intervals.

Each bell is decorated with elaborate patterns and gold inlaid inscriptions. The entire ensemble weighs 2,567 kilogrammes. The bells have gentle tones and cover a wide and complete range of sounds. The large bells in the bottom row are loud, deep and sonorous and have a long lingering sound. The ones in the middle row are melodious and resonant, have a moderate volume and emit a lingering sound as well. The niu-bells in the top row produce crisp and penetrating notes at a lower volume.

The range of the entire ensemble is more than five octaves, from A^1-C^4. The yong-bells in the middle and bottom rows feature a seven-natural scale in C major, and their middle zone of articulation is complete with all the 12 notes. Thus equipped, the bian-bells are capable of rendering high-calibre performances of either Chinese or foreign music.

A bronze bo-bell was unearthed together with the bian-bells. Presented by Prince Hui of Chu to Marquis Yi of Zheng in 443 B.C., the bell is nearly one metre in height and 134.8 kilogrammes in weight. According to incomplete statistics, nearly 280 musical instruments dating back to the State of Chu have been discovered in Hubei Province. These include bo-, niu- and duo-bells, hand-held bells, stone chimes, drums, lutes, spinets, pipes and reed organs. Many can still produce clear and precise musical notes.

Visitors to Hubei today can personally see these musical instruments and learn something about this aspect of ancient Chinese civilization. They can also be treated to a concert of typical Chu music played on these instruments. The Hubei Provincial Museum, the Provincial Song and Dance Ensemble, the Jingzhou Municipal Museum and the Wuhan Conservatory of Music all employ musicians who entertain guests with ancient music played on imitation Chu instruments.

Translated by Ling Yuan

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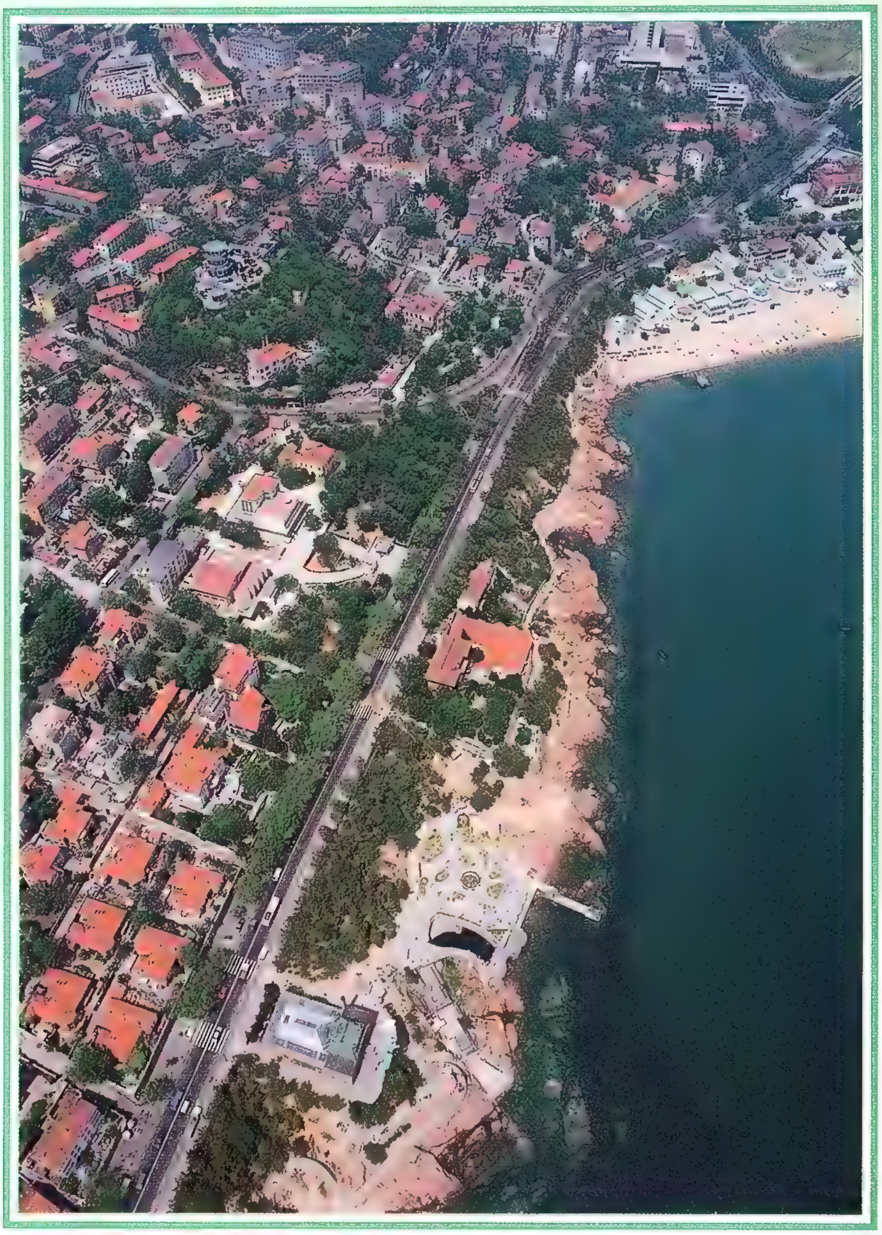
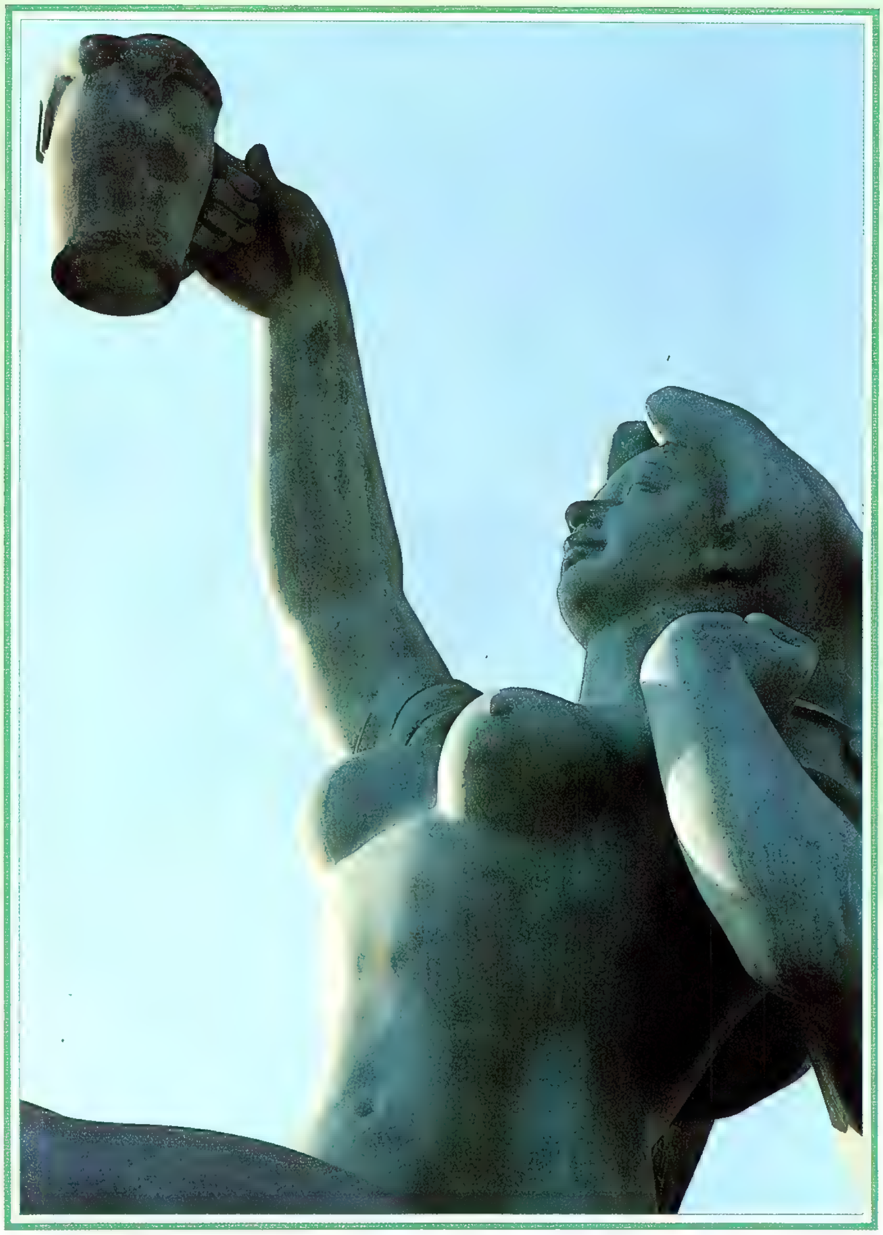


An aerial view of the coastline in Qingdao

Guests drink heartily at the opening ceremony of the beer festival.

There are many beaches along the coast of Qingdao that attract both Chinese and foreign holiday makers.



This statue of the "beer goddess" was erected in 1992.

Qingdao's Annual Beer Festival

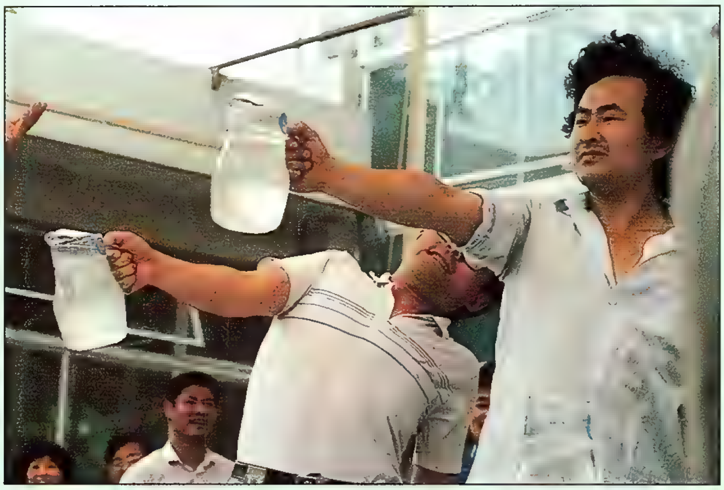
PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY REN XIHAI

It seems that the people of Qingdao spend their entire year celebrating one festival or fair after another. Right after the New Year comes the Spring Festival, then Nanshan's Turnip Fair on the eighth day of the first lunar month and the Lantern Festival on the 15th of the first lunar month. In the ensuing months, there is not one that doesn't have some festival or fair to celebrate.

All these festivities are eclipsed, however, by the Beer Festival, which is held each year in August. To the people of Qingdao, the Beer Festival is a time when they can drink beer to their hearts' content and generally have a good time. Immediately after the Cherry Blossom festival in May, people begin to eagerly look forward to the arrival of the Beer Festival, and the departments sponsoring the fair begin to canvas for the design of a logo.

As soon as the Beer Festival opens, Qingdao's main fairground is filled with throngs of people. In the centre is a huge fountain that spurts out a gold-coloured liquid that has the strong aroma of beer. Yes, you guessed it – it is a literal fountain of beer.

Naturally, the main event of the Beer Festival is a beer-drinking contest. The contestants are all heavy drinkers chosen from various professions and trades. In front of each is a row of glasses filled with



This competition tests how strong one's "beer arm" is.

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QINGDAO CHINA

Such huge advertisements can be seen everywhere in Qingdao.

beer. At the word go, the drinkers grab a glass, tilt back their heads and empty it, their stomachs heaving up and down, the corners of their mouths full of white foam. In the twinkle of an eye all the glasses of beer are empty and, amazingly, the contestants are still able to walk, talk and laugh as usual.

Beside activities related to beer, the Beer Festival also puts on song and dance performances by artists and workers of the Qingdao Beer Brewery. Other events include a sand sculpture contest, a volleyball competition and callisthenics on the beach, the latter performed by local girls to the beat of the ocean tide and against the backdrop of a blue sea, blue sky and white sandy beach.

The sand sculpture contest was a much more quiet event than the others. I watched some students, teachers and others work with great concentration to mould the sand into various fantastic shapes.

The people of Qingdao naturally take pride in Qingdao beer, which has enjoyed a good reputation on world markets for 80 to 90 years. In the supermarkets of many European and American countries, Qingdao beer is the number one Chinese import. One could even say that many foreigners get to know Qingdao through its beer.

Then what is it that makes Qingdao beer so attractive to Chinese and foreign beer drinkers? This is mainly due to the good quality of water used. Qingdao beer is brewed with natural mineral water from Laoshan Mountain and hops grown at the foot of Laoshan Mountain, which are nourished by the same mineral water. Laoshan Mountain is located in the northeastern part of Qingdao, and faces the Yellow Sea. It is not only picturesque, but is also one of the three major Taoist santuaries in China.

Most Chinese know that beer is not native to China but was imported from abroad, and that the first place to make beer in China was Qingdao. Walking the streets of the city, at any time of day you can see young people carrying cartons of Qingdao beer as gifts for friends and relatives. Even in years past when Qingdao beer was in short supply locally, this was a common sight. Nowadays, the beer is available on every street corner, but it is still the favourite drink of Qingdao people. In fact, some residents have a bottle or two with every meal; it seems

The fountain of pure beer

The first float of the parade at the beer festival that in Qingdao, food just would not taste right if it were not accompanied by beer.

Perhaps because their beloved beer is a Western invention, the people of Qingdao have adopted certain other Western customs as well. Their weddings, for example, look very Westernized. The bride wears a long trailing wedding gown and the wedding is performed in a church. Then the newlyweds go to the beach to be photographed. Not the least bit shy, they kiss passionately in front of their families, not exactly a traditional-style wedding.

The people here also like to play Western musical instruments. In the 60s there was a fad for violins and in recent years there has been a piano craze. Many families buy a piano even though they have no time to learn to play it, as it makes an attractive addition to their house – not unlike some families in the West!

Translated by Anne Yan

The callisthenics contest at the beach adds colour to the beer festival.

On the evening of the opening ceremony, an ocean-going fleet sets off fireworks.

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At the beer festival every year, a sand sculpture competition is held on the beach (1). ■ *On New Year's Eve in Qingdao, verses written on flaming red paper express people's hopes for the coming year (2).* ■ *In the third lunar month of every year, the fishermen of Qingdao hold a ceremony to celebrate sailing out to sea. It is called the Worshipping the Sea or the "Casting Nets" Festival (3).* ■ *The Turnip Fair was originally an exhibit of turnip carvings (4).* ■ *On the 16th day of the second lunar month every year, a Hawthorn Fruit Festival is held at Qingdao's Haiyun Nunnery (5 & 6).*

One Festival After Another in Qingdao

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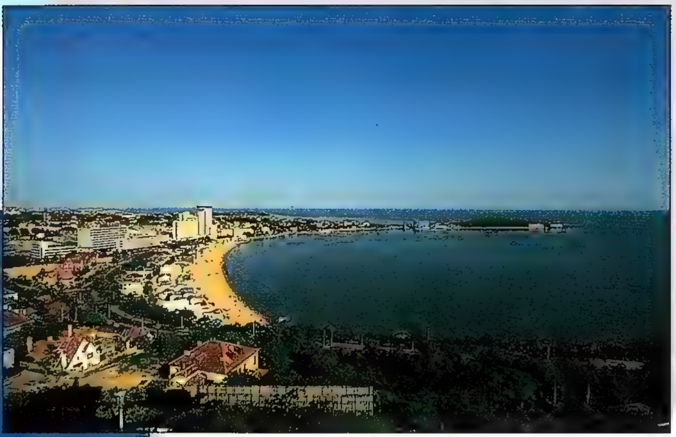
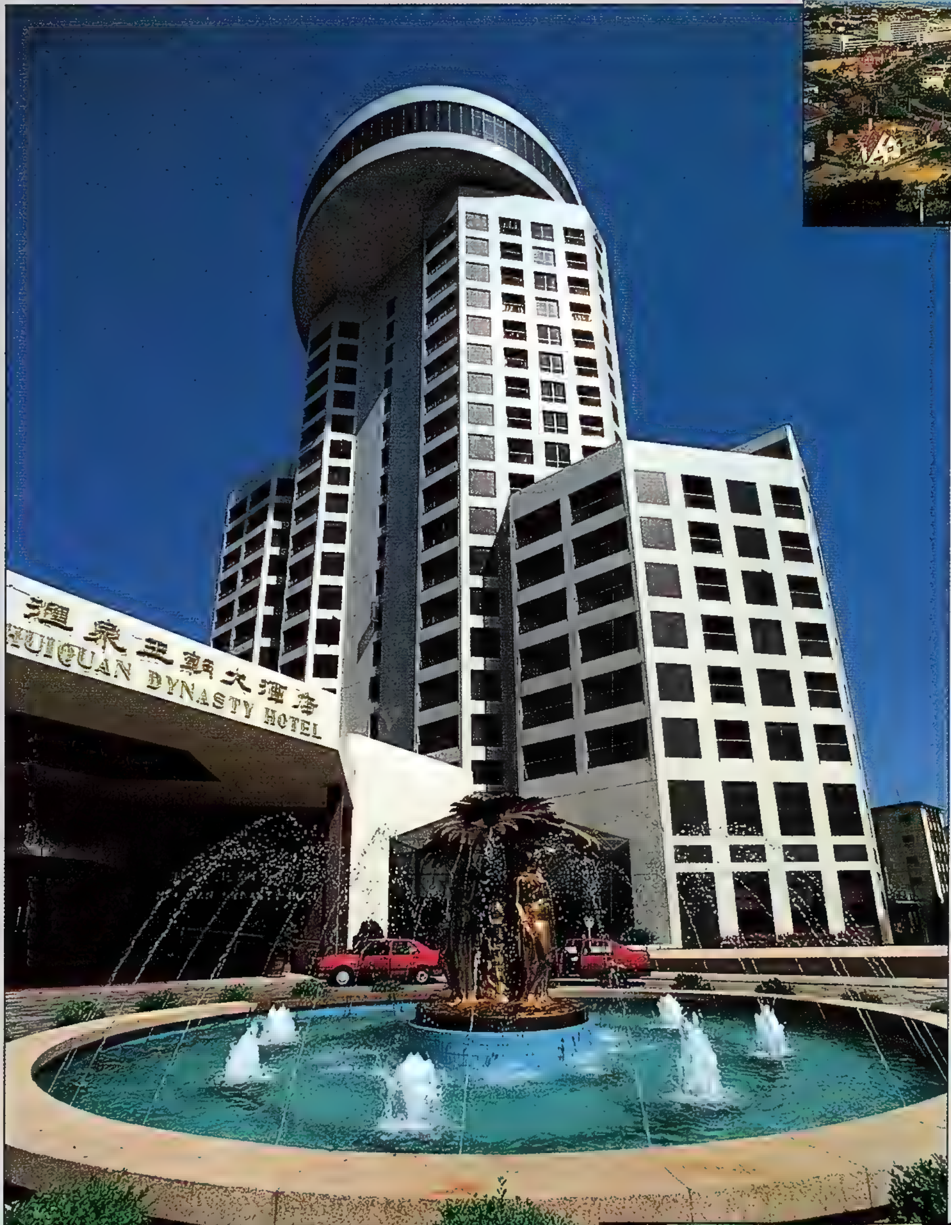
Apart from the many traditional Chinese festivals and the Beer Festival, there are over ten other festivals or fairs every year in Qingdao. Just a few of these are the Turnip Fair, the Hawthorn Fruit Festival, the Worshipping the Sea Festival, the Cherry Blossom Fair and the Mid-summer Arts Festival.

Lodging by the Yellow Sea

– A Stay at Qingdao's Huiquan Dynasty Hotel

PHOTOS BY REN XIHAI • TEXT BY JUN FENG





Many years ago when I visited Qingdao, I stayed at the Huiquan Guesthouse located on the shores of Huiquan Bay at the Yellow Sea. This time, when I revisited the city on a business trip, I found the guesthouse had been expanded: A 23-storey building was added, which is now the main structure of the present Huiquan Dynasty Hotel.

The presidential suite on the third floor is of course the most splendid, with a carpeted marble staircase, a special lift and a spacious gardened balcony overlooking the sea. On the second floor is the Dynasty Club, where guests can enjoy complimentary breakfast, afternoon tea and evening cocktails.

During my stay at the hotel, I always chose the piano bar in the lobby for business discussions. The elegant atmosphere, I'm sure, played a part in my success.

Guests can also enjoy cuisine of every description at the hotel's food street, restaurants and bars, which offer Chinese, Western and Japanese dishes and Korean barbecue. Other facilities in the hotel include bowling, tennis courts, a swimming pool, sauna, an electronic recreation centre and a gym. After a busy day of work, these facilities provided me with a wonderful way to relax.

What impressed me most was the revolving restaurant and dance hall at the top of the building, which is to date the only one of its kind in Qingdao. Having dinner there one evening, I quietly enjoyed the scenery below. Zhanqiao Pier, the city's major landmark, Little Qiangdao, an island some 720 metres off the coast, and the rippling Yellow Sea were all within view. As the music, both Chinese and Western, started to play, diners were lured onto the dance floor, where they danced late into the night.

Congratulations & Thank You

The sixth and last winner of $8,888's worth of travel coupons was drawn last month, marking the completion of <China Tourism> magazine's $8,888 Free Travel Lucky Draw for subscribers and subscriber nominees. We here at <China Tourism> would like to express our congratulations to the six winners, and our heartfelt gratitude to Grand Tours for its generous sole sponsorship.

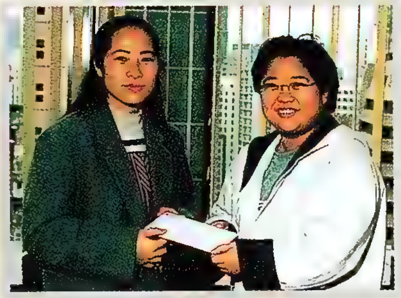
What will the winners do with their $8,888?

JANUARY

Mr. Tsui Chi Ming
D221525(0)

A relaxing autumn holiday with his family in Beijing.

Mr. Tsui (right) receive his prize from Mr. Johnny Choi of Grand Tours.



As Mr. Ma was away on a business trip, his wife (left) accepted the prize for him from Miss Catherine Lee of China Tourism Magazine.

FEBRUARY

Mr. Ma Kai Ming
C358758(2)

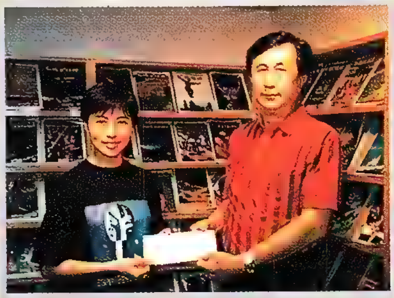
A Romantic Christmas in Qingdao, just for the two of them!

MARCH

Mr.Kwok See Kwan
A438445(0)

Will climb the Great Wall with his wife. It's been a long, long time since their honeymoon ....!

Mr. Kwok (right) receive his prize from Mr. Johnny Choi of Grand Tours.



Ms. Fan (left) receive her prize from Mr. Liu Pit Mui of China Tourism Magazine.

APRIL

Miss Susan M.S.Fan
D339142(7)

A big surprise for Mom & Dad on their 'Days' (Mother's & Father's Days) -a free trip to Hangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai!

MAY

Mr.Sit Kin Fei
G383501(3)

Will bring his elderly mother to see Tian An Men Square.

Mr. Sit (left) receive his prize from Mr. Zhang Guo Rong of China Tourism Magazine.

Ms. Fong (right) receive her prize from Mr. York Lau of Grand Tours.

JUNE

Ms. Fong Po Ming
C334708(A)

Although Ms. Fong has been to Beijing twice already, she still wants to go back. Now, with $8,888 in Free Travel Coupons, she'll be back for the third time.

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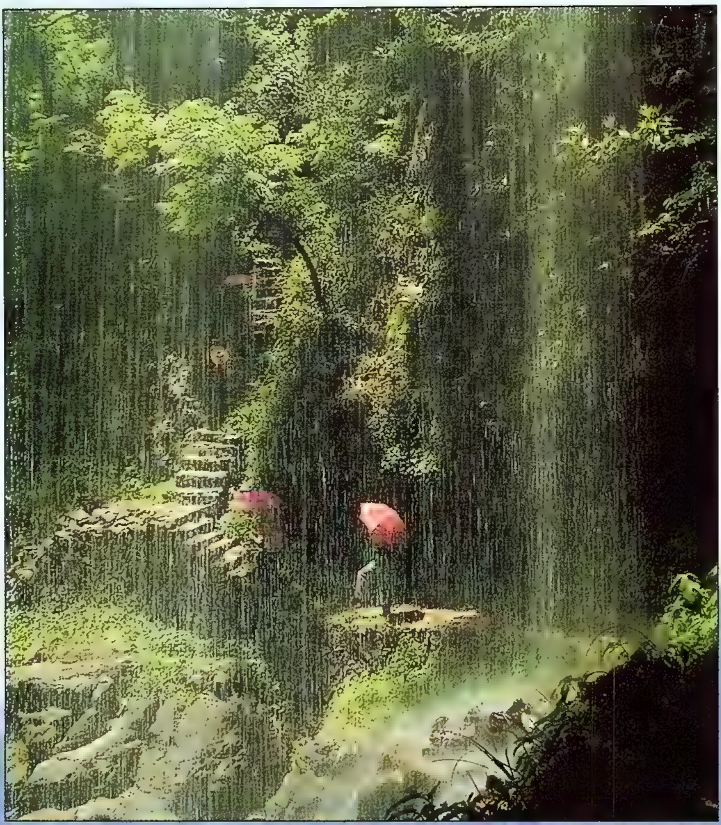


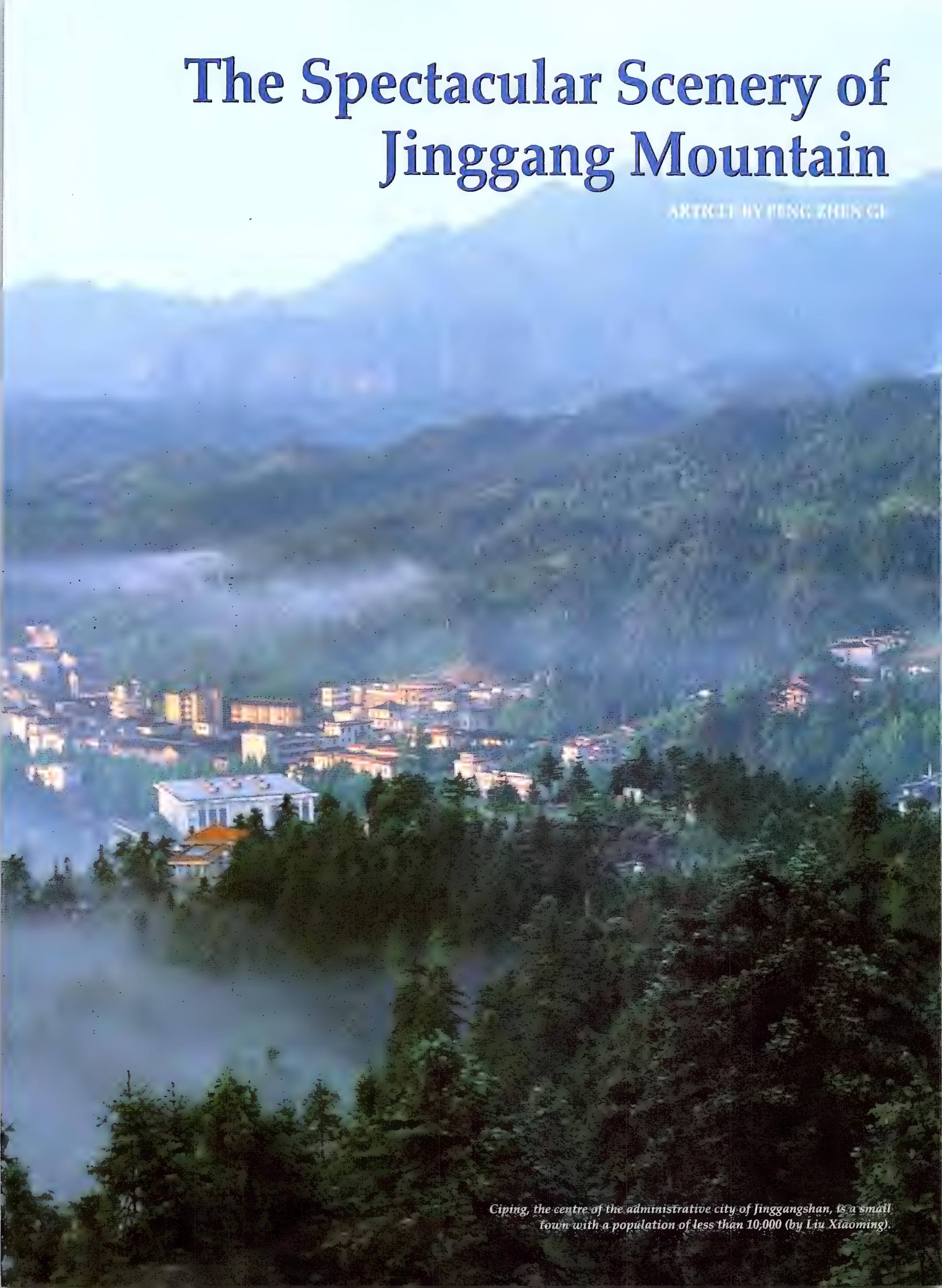
There is a series of large and small waterfalls in the valley of the Five Dragon Pools Scenic Area (by [illegible])

[illegible]

A "Sea of Clouds" often appears at Huangyangjie Pass, but the "waterfall clouds" are even more spectacular (by Zhang Huasheng)

The Spectacular Scenery of Jinggang Mountain

ARTICLE BY PENG ZHEN GE



Ciping, the centre of the administrative city of Jinggangshan, is a small town with a population of less than 10,000 (by Liu Xiaoming).

Top left: *Jinggang Mountain, 250 kilometres in circumference, is covered by dense forests (by Li Ziqing).*

Top right: *The main gate to the Dragon River Academy (by Chan Yat Nin)*

Bottom: *The Dragon River Academy is a group of classical-style buildings in Longshi, at the western foot of Jinggang Mountain. Its classrooms were once used by the Red Army for officers' training (by Chan Yat Nin).*

Jinggang Mountain, located in the southern part of Jiangxi Province, straddles the Hunan-Jiangxi border and forms the middle section of the Luoxiao Mountain Range. At the western foot of Jinggang Mountain is the town of Longshi, which is the seat of Ninggang County. The Longjiang River flows by the town, and on the banks of the river stands the Longjiang (Dragon River) Academy, founded in 1840 during the Qing Dynasty.

The academy consists of nine classical-style buildings and 18 courtyards. The main hall is a storied structure named Wenchang (Literary Achievements) Hall. The academy was built by outside settlers known as Hakkas, who pooled their funds in the hope that one of them might one day come first in the imperial examinations. With Jinggang Mountain behind it and the clear Dragon River flowing in front, the academy is in a beautiful location.

In November 1927, when Mao Zedong and Zhu De led the Red Army to Jinggang Mountain, the classrooms inside the Dragon River Academy were used for officers' training. From among the just over 100 trainees and instructors in the corps, several dozen rose to the rank of general, after having fought more than 20 years of wars across the length and breadth of the country. Of the ten marshals in China, four were from Jinggang Mountain.

At Statue Garden north of Ciping, there are statues of 17 Red Army generals made by some of China's most well-known sculptors (by Peng Zhen Ge).

功德 千秋
振興中華福澤萬代
開創基業德隆千載
讓
退一步天高地
讓三分心平氣和

A portrait of Mao Zedong decorates a small roadside restaurant in Jinggangshan (by Peng Zhen Ge).

A Summer Resort and Former Red Army Base

The name Jinggang Mountain has become well-known in China because it was the first base for the Chinese Red Army. An administrative unit named Jinggangshan City has been set up in the mountain area and has jurisdiction over an area of more than 660 square kilometres. Surrounded by tall mountains, dense forests, deep valleys and clear pools, and favoured by a hospitable people and climate, Jinggang Mountain has become the second largest summer resort, next to Mount Lushan, in Jiangxi Province. It is listed as a State-level scenic area and is attracting some 400,000 Chinese and foreign tourists every year.

The continuous chains of mountains in the area average only some 500 metres above sea level, and from a distance do not look particularly impressive. But once one is actually in the mountains, one finds that there are many deep valleys overgrown with pines and bamboos, in which springs and waterfalls gurgle and bubble. The area is also a natural zoological and botanical garden. According to a survey made by the Jinggangshan Natural Reserve Administration, there are over 3,800 species of plants and over 1,100 species of animals in the area. Among the wild animals are a small deer called the muntjac, red-faced monkeys, zibets (a type of wild cat), cheetahs, gorals (a goat-antelope) and South China tigers.

Ciping, the centre of Jinggangshan City, is located in a beautiful basin 842 metres above sea level. It used to be a village of less than 100 households; today, it is a town with a population of nearly 10,000. At the centre of the town is Lake Yicui, where there is an island with pavilions, terraces and many kinds of flowers. The lake is encircled by a wide road lined with tall phoenix trees and buildings of varied styles, and in the valley a dozen or so villas sit surrounded by tall pines and cypresses. On the northeastern shore of Lake Yicui there are several yellowish mud houses which were once the quarters of the Red Army. Their simple style forms a sharp contrast to the modern buildings and streets around the lake.

Every evening, the town's brightly illuminated marketplace is crowded with people. When I was there, the small restaurants run by people from Guangdong were doing especially brisk business – even the tables and chairs placed outside the restaurants were occupied. Local produce such as bamboo shoots, mushrooms and Chinese medicinal herbs were on sale in the shops, and there were also tourist souvenirs, such as badges and dishes bearing the portrait of Mao Zedong and plaster busts of the former leader. Mao Zedong's portraits sat side by side with those of Guan Yu and Bodhisattva Guanyin, two of the most popular deities in China. Truck drivers stop to buy them and paste them on their windshields, believing they will ensure their safety. Next to the marketplace is a newly built open-air dance floor, where singers and dancers take turns performing in the whirling coloured lights.

One morning I climbed up to Statue Garden on North Hill, where the statues of 17 Red Army generals are set amongst pine trees and flower-beds. Chiselled in either bronze, white marble or granite, these life-like statues are similar in size but different in posture, and were done by some of China's most well-known contemporary sculptors. Looking southward from Statue Garden, I could see the town of Ciping and the green mountains around it bathed in the morning sunlight. Pointing towards Wuzhi (Five Finger) Peak in the distance, a local person proudly told me that the design on the back of the 100-yuan banknote is of Jinggang's own Wuzhi Peak. Rising to 1,500 metres in height, the peak is home to ancient pines, waterfalls and large azalea groves.

Huangyangjie, a Strategic Pass

The centre part of Jinggang Mountain is higher than the surrounding area and can be approached only via five passes, which historically made it easy to defend and difficult to attack. Defence works and trenches built during the war years can still be seen today, though paved roads now lead to every part of the mountain. The paved roads leading away from Ciping, however, still have to go through the five passes located 10 to 20 kilometres away. The five passes are: Huangyangjie in the north, Bamian (Octagonal) Mountain in the northwest, Shuangma (Twin Horse) Rock in the southwest, Zhushachong (Cinnabar) Pass in the south, and Tung Ridge in the east.

The Well River becomes wider, smoother and shallower after it flows out of Cinnabar Pass (by Chan Yat Nin).

People in the mountain villages of Jinggang Mountain lead a simple life (by Guo Jiasheng).

Huangyangjie is the most spectacular and most famous of the five passes. A monument commemorating a victorious battle fought by the Red Army at this spot stands at the top of the mountain. From the foot of the monument, one can see the Octagonal Mountain pass in the southwest. A cliff face hundreds of metres in height extends for several kilometres, and a paved road close to the pass winds its way through the mountains all the way to Maoping and Longcheng in Ninggang County. The serried mountains in the distance present a magnificent view.

Huangyangjie is often enshrouded by fog, no matter what time of year. In the morning, there is sometimes a "sea of clouds", which floats like an ocean among the mountain peaks. An even more fantastic sight is when the clouds roll down from the top of the cliff face to the bottom of a valley like a giant waterfall.

In the central area of Jinggang Mountain there are many small basins, which are surrounded by the five passes. Since there are mountain streams flowing into each of the basins, the local people call the basins "wells". There are five big wells and five small wells. The villages located in these wells are therefore named Big Well, Medium Well, Small Well, Upper Well and Lower Well, and the small streams flowing through them converge to form the Well River. This is why the original name of Jinggang Mountain was Jingjiang, or Well River, Mountain.

The people living in the five basins are friendly and hospitable. Bamboo groves decorate the edges of all the villages, and paddy fields lie on either side of clear streams, giving the area an idyllic atmosphere.

The Five Dragon Pools

About two kilometres north of Small Well Village is the Five Dragon Pools Scenic Area. Again, from the outside there seems to be nothing special about the mountains and trees in this area, but once you enter the scenic area the view is quite different. Cicadas and katydids stridulate shrilly in the summer. A short path leads up the mountain to a flat rock shaped like an eagle's beak, where a panorama of mountains unfolds before one's eyes. Below the flat rock is a sheer cliff that drops steeply down to the bottom of a valley. The sound of roaring water echoes through the mountains. Even though the bottom of the valley is obscured by pines, cypresses and shrubs, the scenery is most spectacular.

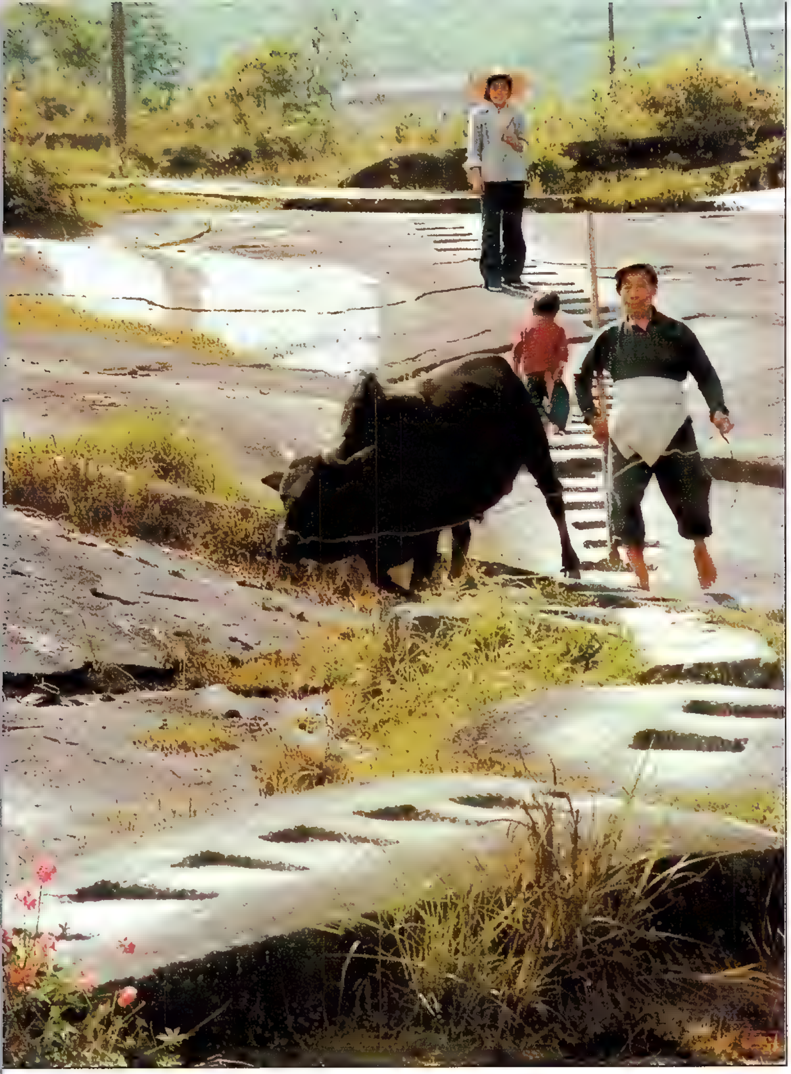
A path paved with stone slabs winds through a dense forest on the right. About 100 metres down below is a waterfall, which gushes over the edge of a precipice some 70 metres high to a deep pool below. The waters roar, and the mountain breezes blow a spray of mist across the path. One has to rush through the spray and jump down from a huge rock to gain a full view of the waterfall. Because of the spray, the trees on the opposite mountain all incline to one side and sway continually in the breeze. This pool, the Green Dragon Pool, is the first of the Five Dragon Pools. As it sits in a deep valley with a dense growth of trees, sunlight is obscured even on a fine day.

Further below, the mountain stream flows down the valley and forms several more pools, all different in shape. The Yellow Dragon Pool is situated in a quiet and secluded spot, and the clear water flows over yellowish slabs of stone. At the Pearl Dragon Pool, the stream gurgles joyously over many large and small pebbles. The Black Dragon Pool is much larger than the others, large enough for visitors to jump in and take a swim. The White Dragon Pool is also named the Fairy Pool, because it is fed by a waterfall which looks like a fairy standing on the edge of the pool. From the White Dragon Pool, the stream flows into a deep forest and the path turns right to another valley.

Not far to the south of Big Well Village is the Shuikou Tourist Area. After walking through an ancient grove of azaleas, one comes to a U-shaped perpendicular cliff. A waterfall more than 80 metres high cascades down the cliff face and sends up a misty spray, creating two wonderful rainbows in the sunlight – thus the waterfall is also called Rainbow Waterfall.

Of the five mountain passes, Cinnabar Pass in the south is the lowest in elevation, and the mountains there are less dramatic in contour. A broad, ancient arched bridge spans a shallow but wide stream, which is flanked by villages and paddy fields. As I departed the area and got back on the highway, cyclists carrying mountain products to market reminded me that I had now re-entered the "real" world.

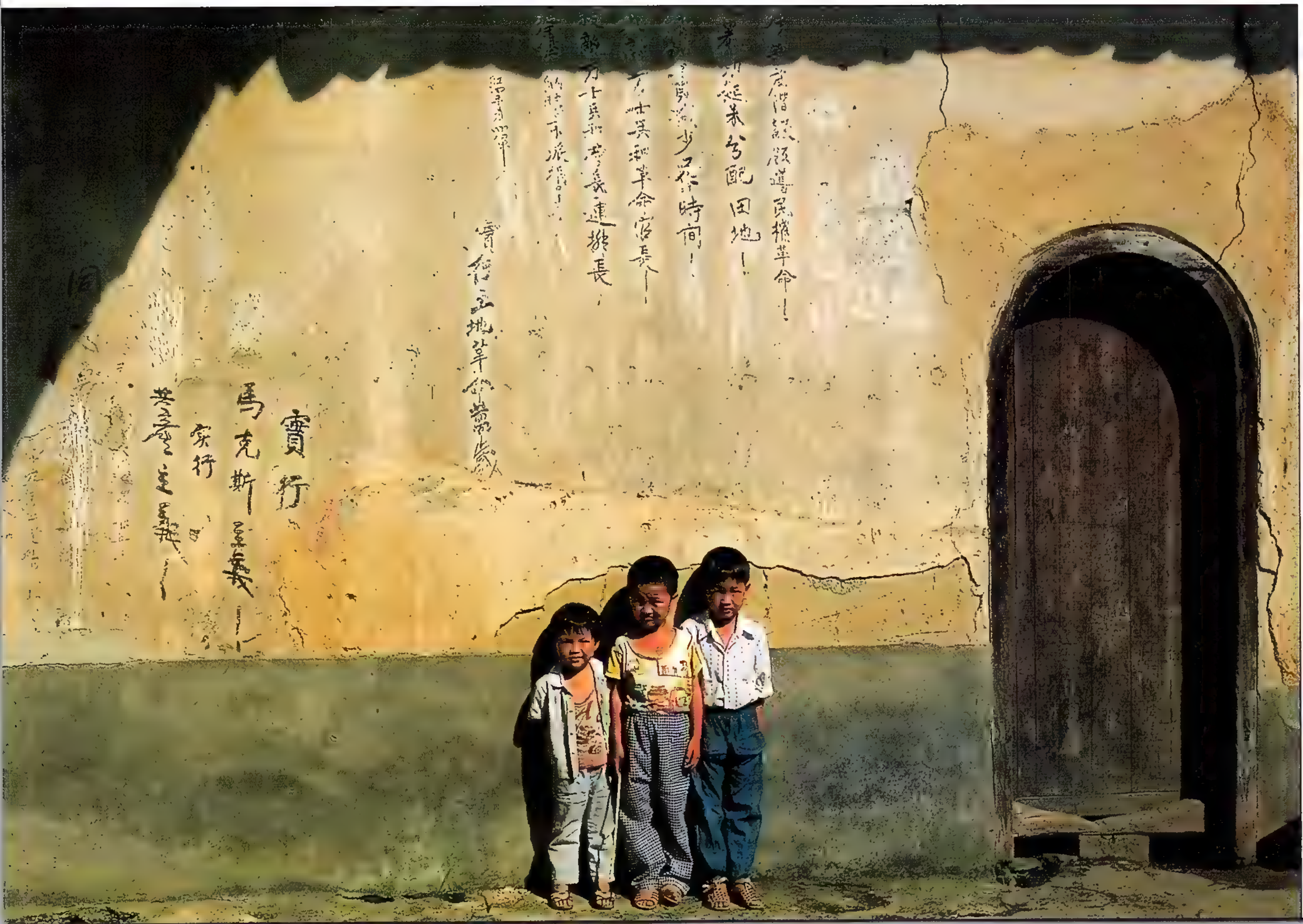
Translated by Tang Bowen



Top left: *This "path" in a mountain village was carved out of flat rocks (by Zhang Huasheng).*

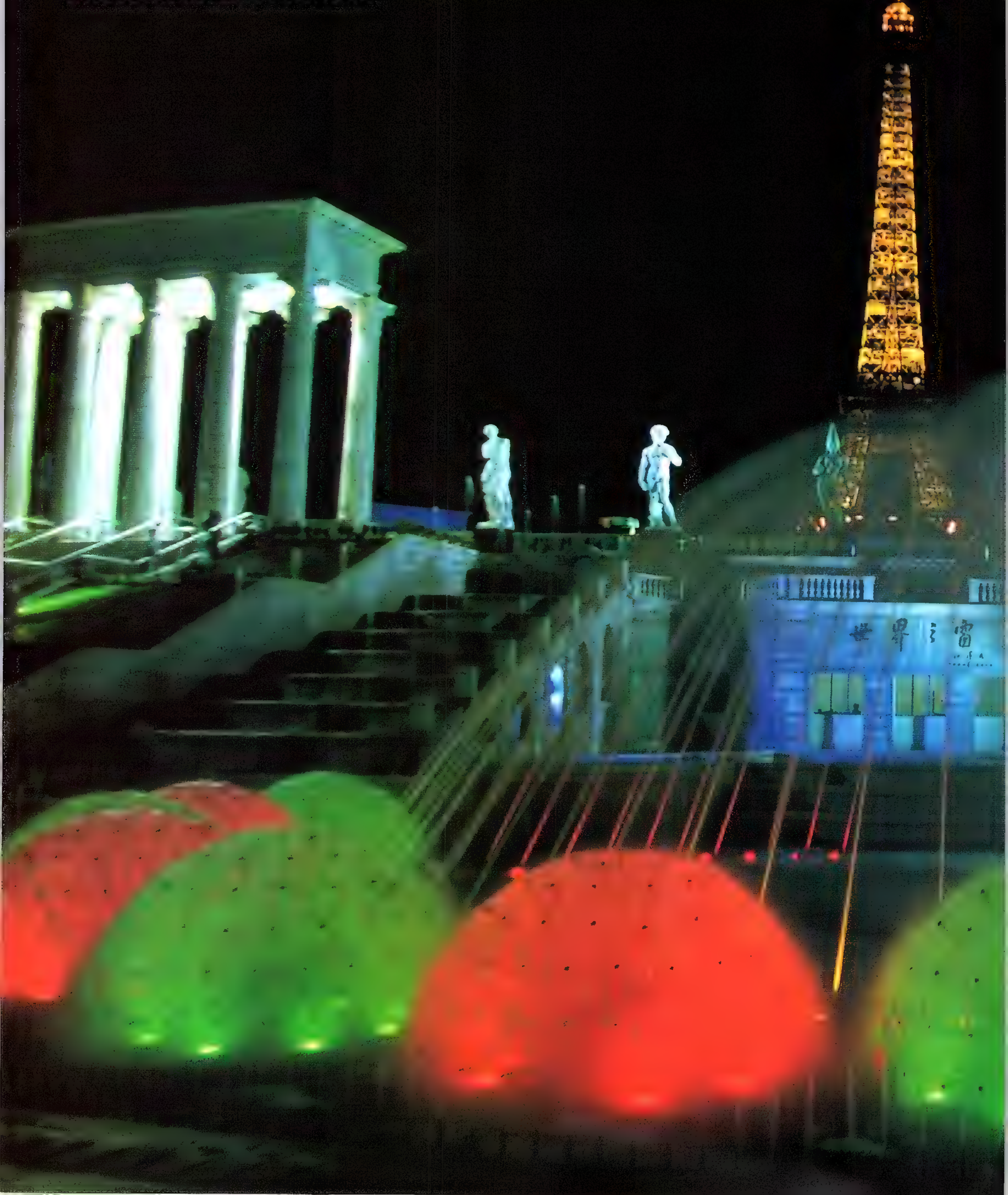
Top right: *Whenever they celebrate a wedding, the mountain villagers lay out a large banquet to entertain the guests (by Guo Jiasheng).*

Bottom: *A slogan written by the Red Army long ago is still visible on the wall of this old house.*



Shenzhen's Window of the World

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU

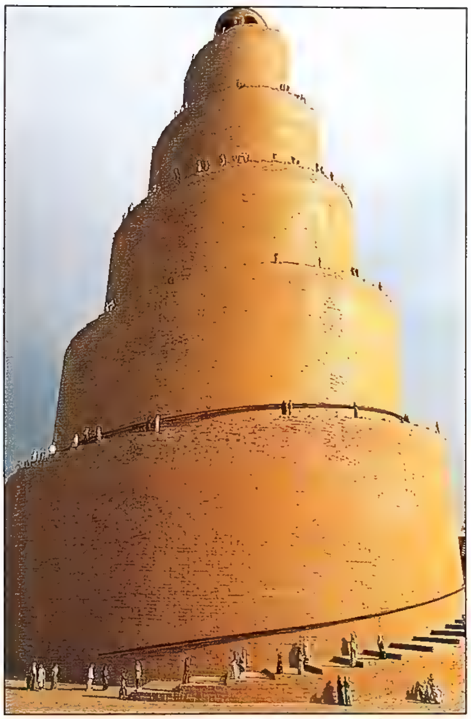


Depictions of America's Broadway musicals have been added to the performance of songs and dances from around the world (by Peng Gaorui).

Inside the main gate at Window of the World are six stone sculptures representing the ancient civilizations of East and West. At the centre of the square is a replica of one of the fountains at Peter the Great's imperial palace in Russia (by Yang Yankang).

In front of the duplicate Taj Mahal [illegible]

A "Japanese" girl welcomes guests in front of a Japanese-style wooden house.



Iraq's Friday Mosque of Samarra

"Japanese" girls are demonstrating the art of flower arranging (by Peng Gaorui).

In the Thai-style restaurants and teahouses, the waitresses all dress in Thai costumes.

Dances from Southeast Asia are performed in the Southeast Asian Waterside Town.

Early one morning, I got onto a minibus heading for Shenzhen to attend the trial opening of the city's newest tourist attraction, called Window of the World. Though there were a dozen windows selling tickets, the long visitors' queues took up nearly half of the square.

I entered the park at nine in the morning and left at half past nine in the evening, when everything was illuminated by colourful lights. Spending 12 hours in the 480,000-square-metre park, all on foot, was very tiring. But it was also very rewarding, because in one day I saw replicas of all the most famous wonders and scenic spots in Europe, America, Africa, Oceania and Asia.

The Monuments of Europe

The European section is located at the centre of the park, and consists of nearly all the well-known architecture of various European countries. The palaces, cathedrals, castles, monuments and huge sculptures, though only one-third of the original in size, were all quite fantastic. The most eye-catching was the Eiffel Tower, which stands 108 metres high, and again though it is only one-third of the original, is still quite magnificent. From a distance the people under the iron tower looked as small as bugs. If you go up to the top by elevator, you get a view of the vast sea and hills of Hong Kong's New Territories in the south, and the China Folk Culture Villages and Splendid China in the east. If you turn to the west, you can see Shekou Harbour and the buildings in Shekou's industrial zone. Looking down, you have a bird's-eye view of the whole miniature "world".

Southeast Asia's Waterside Villages

The Asian section is situated in the eastern part of the park. Due to the different religions, nationalities and cultures in the region, the sites and buildings are all quite different from one another. Islamic mosques, Buddhist temples, pagodas, mausoleums and grottos, as well as examples of Japanese and Korean architecture, all sit together, showing the great diversity of the Asian region.

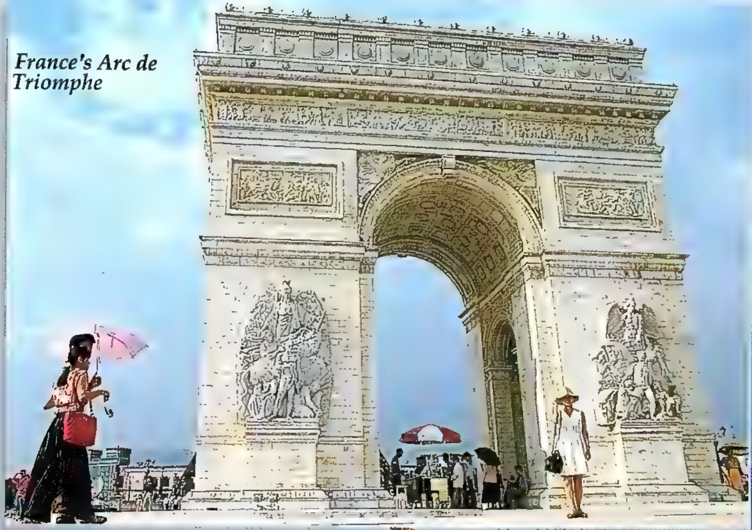
In front of the replica of India's Taj Mahal, there is a cross-shaped pool with dozens of

In the foreground is France's Versailles Palace, and the white building in the distance is St. Peter's Cathedral in the Vatican.

The Fountain of the Observatory in France

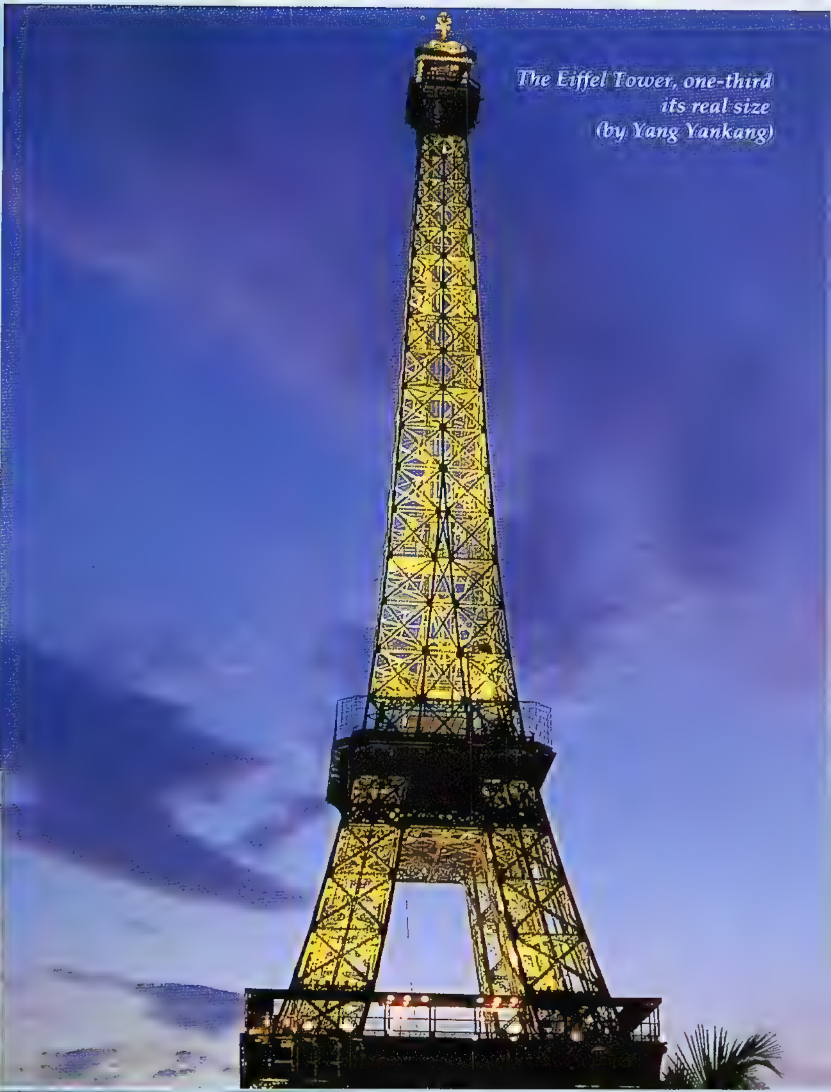
The Hand of God is recreated in Sculpture Park.

France's Arc de Triomphe



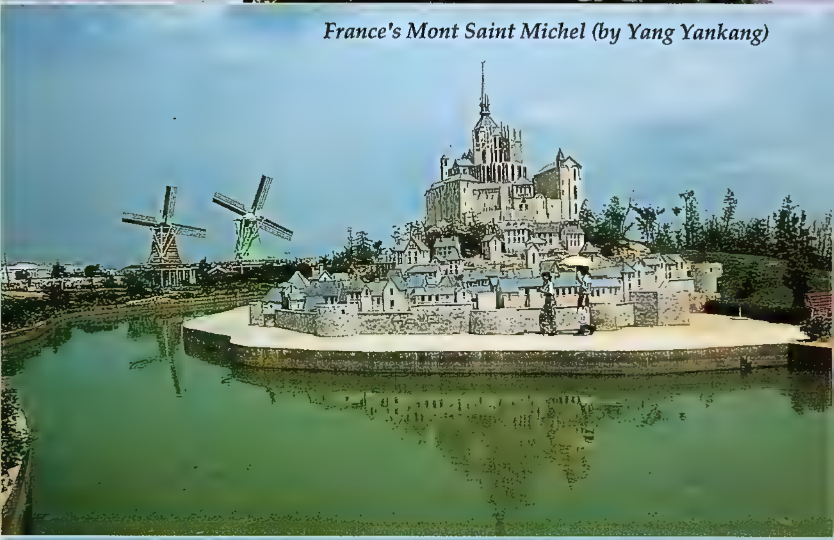
Russia's St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin

The Eiffel Tower, one-third its real size (by Yang Yankang)

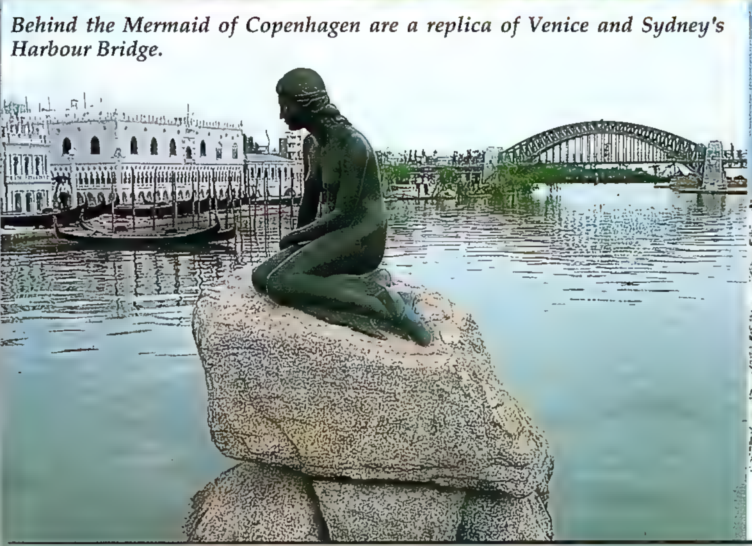


The Cologne Cathedral in Germany, Spain's Alcazar Castle and the 100-metre-high fountain

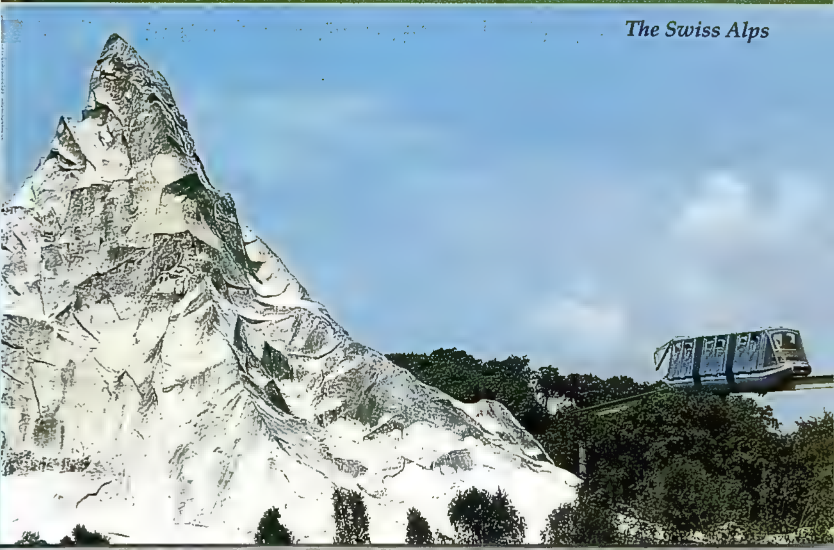
France's Mont Saint Michel (by Yang Yankang)



Behind the Mermaid of Copenhagen are a replica of Venice and Sydney's Harbour Bridge.

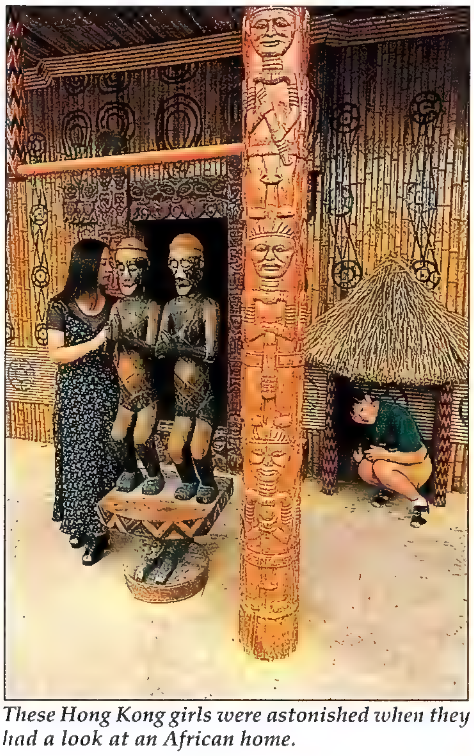


The Swiss Alps



The U.S.A.'s Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Capitol Hill are popular places for taking photos.

An Egyptian sphinx (by Peng Gaorui)



These Hong Kong girls were astonished when they had a look at an African home.

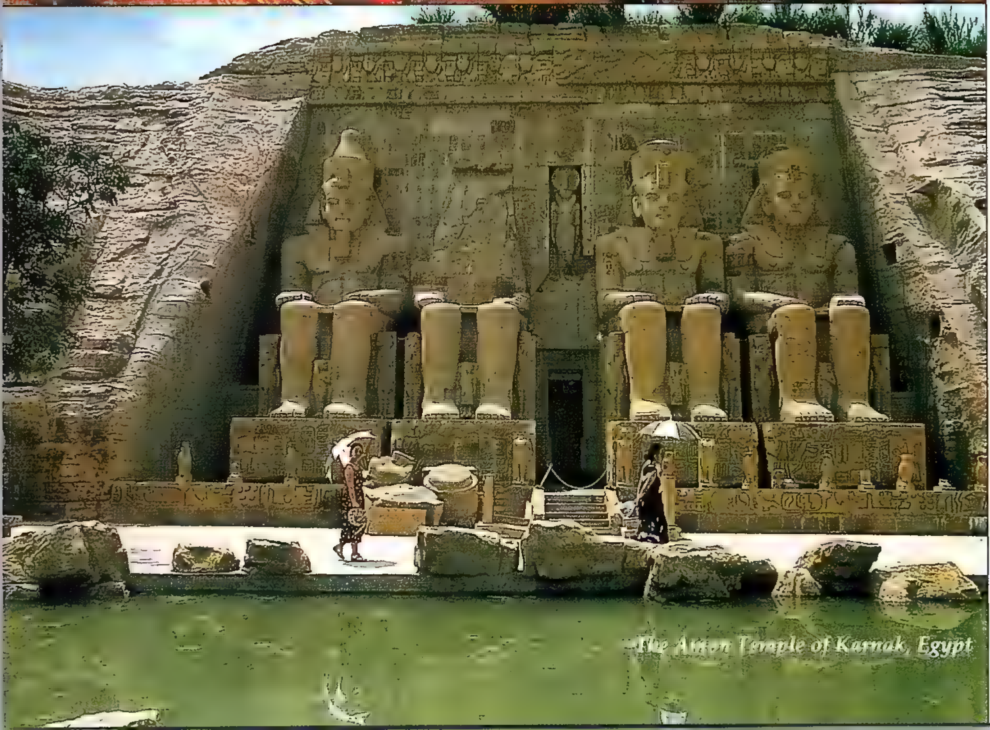
The Niagara Falls are a magnificent sight, even at one-third the real size.

An American Indian dance (by Yang Yankang)

Kenya's Africa Safari Park

The Grand Canyon is much smaller than the original, but it [illegible]

A Hawaiian grass skirt dance


The Amun Temple of Karnak, Egypt

springs bubbling up over the water. Visitors were scooping up the water to wash their sweaty faces.

To the south of the pool are the waterside villages of Southeast Asia. Bamboo rafts poled by a single person drifted past row after row of Thai-style wooden houses. Girls in Thai costumes shuttled back and forth between the wooden houses, serving tea to the visitors. On a wide platform by the water, young boys and girls were giving dance performances, accompanied by drums and other musical instruments.

America's Magnificent Niagara Falls and Grand Canyon

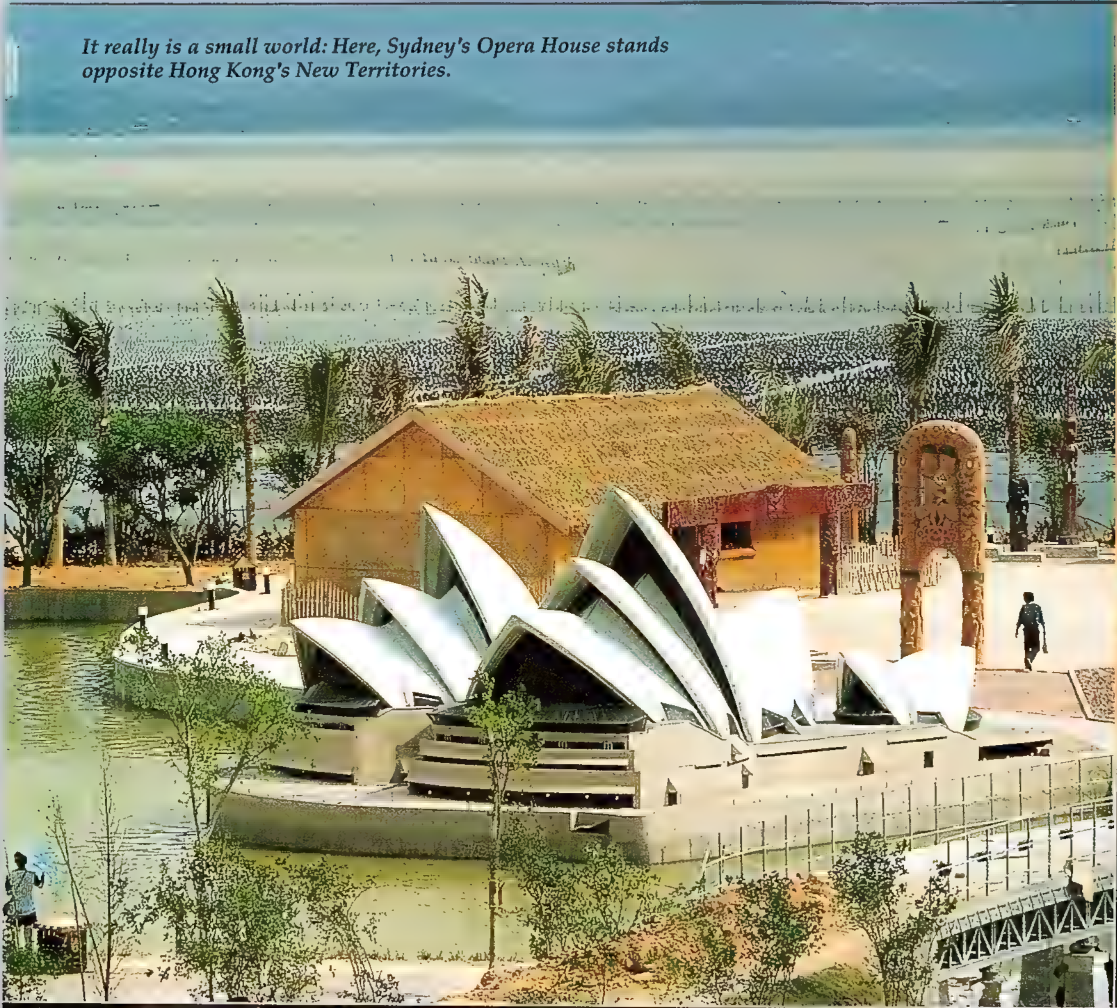
The North American section was totally different from the others. In addition to world-famous structures such as the White House and the Statue of Liberty, there are exquisite replicas of the stone statues of Easter Island, a huge stone head called the Globose, and the statues of warriors, the latter two from Mexico.

The most impressive sights, however, were the recreations of North America's Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. Though the Niagara Falls is reduced so much, it is still 80 metres wide and 10 metres high. Water roared down and smashed against the rocks, sending up a mist of tiny water droplets which were immediately blown away by the wind. This purely man-made scene is very spectacular and true to life. Many visitors were so absorbed that they did not even realize that their clothes had got wet by the splashing water.

The Grand Canyon is situated behind the Niagara Falls. Both sides of the canyon are made of red rocks, and the valley looked deep and mysterious. Walking along the uneven road in the valley, I passed numerous rocks and caves which seemed to change shape all the time, and I could hear the roar of wind passing through the valley.

Wild Animals on the African Grassland

Whenever the continent of Africa is mentioned, people immediately think of Egypt's pyramids and sphinxes, or the Abu Simbel Temple on the bank of the Nile. At Window of the World, these famous sites are reproduced to look just like the genuine ones.


It really is a small world: Here, Sydney's Opera House stands opposite Hong Kong's New Territories.

Russian girls performing traditional Egyptian dances (by Yang Yankang)

This artisan from Guizhou has learned the technique of Maori wood carving.

◂You may not be able to tell that this Maori girl is in fact Chinese.

A dance of "demons and devils" was part of the parade on opening night.

World Square can hold some 10,000 people (by Chan Yat Nin).

Song and dance performances are often held on the grand stage in the World Square.

Following the signs, I came to an earthen hill in what was a small-scale recreation of Kenya's Africa Safari Park. Looking through the fence down at the park, I saw thousands of wild animals. Of course, all the elephants, lions, leopards, wild bulls, gnus, giraffes, antelopes, vultures and other animals that live on the grasslands of Africa could not possibly be brought here, so as the next best thing, the park has created miniature models to give the visitor a small taste of what African wildlife is like.

The Traditional Customs of Oceania

The Oceania section occupies the smallest area in the park, and its scenic spots are numbered. It is centred round a large lake with a 100-metre-high fountain in the middle, which shoots water into the sky and, if it is sunny, causes a rainbow to appear overhead.

The most interesting part of Oceania to me was a Maori dance. Actually the performers were all Chinese, but they looked very much like Maoris – the boys were strongly built and the girls full and round, with dark skin. Wearing straw skirts and flower necklaces, their barefooted dance looked very authentic.

At dusk I returned to the World Square, which is just inside the main gate. The 108 huge stone pillars, all in different styles, and the 10 world-famous sculptures at the main gate were bathed in colourful lights. The square is big enough to hold 10,000 people, and its high walls are decorated with relief carvings from various cultures. There are also six huge gates, each one a replica of a famous gate somewhere in the world. Opposite to the main gate is a stage in the shape of a hemisphere, where performances are held.

An unforgettable spectacle was staged that night, beginning with a parade. Large colourful floats, a formation of flags of all the nations, and a group of people wearing masks of animals and demons marched around the square. This was followed by a joint performance by Chinese and Russian dancers, who presented dances from all five continents. It was a fitting ceremony for the opening night of Shenzhen's Window of the World.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

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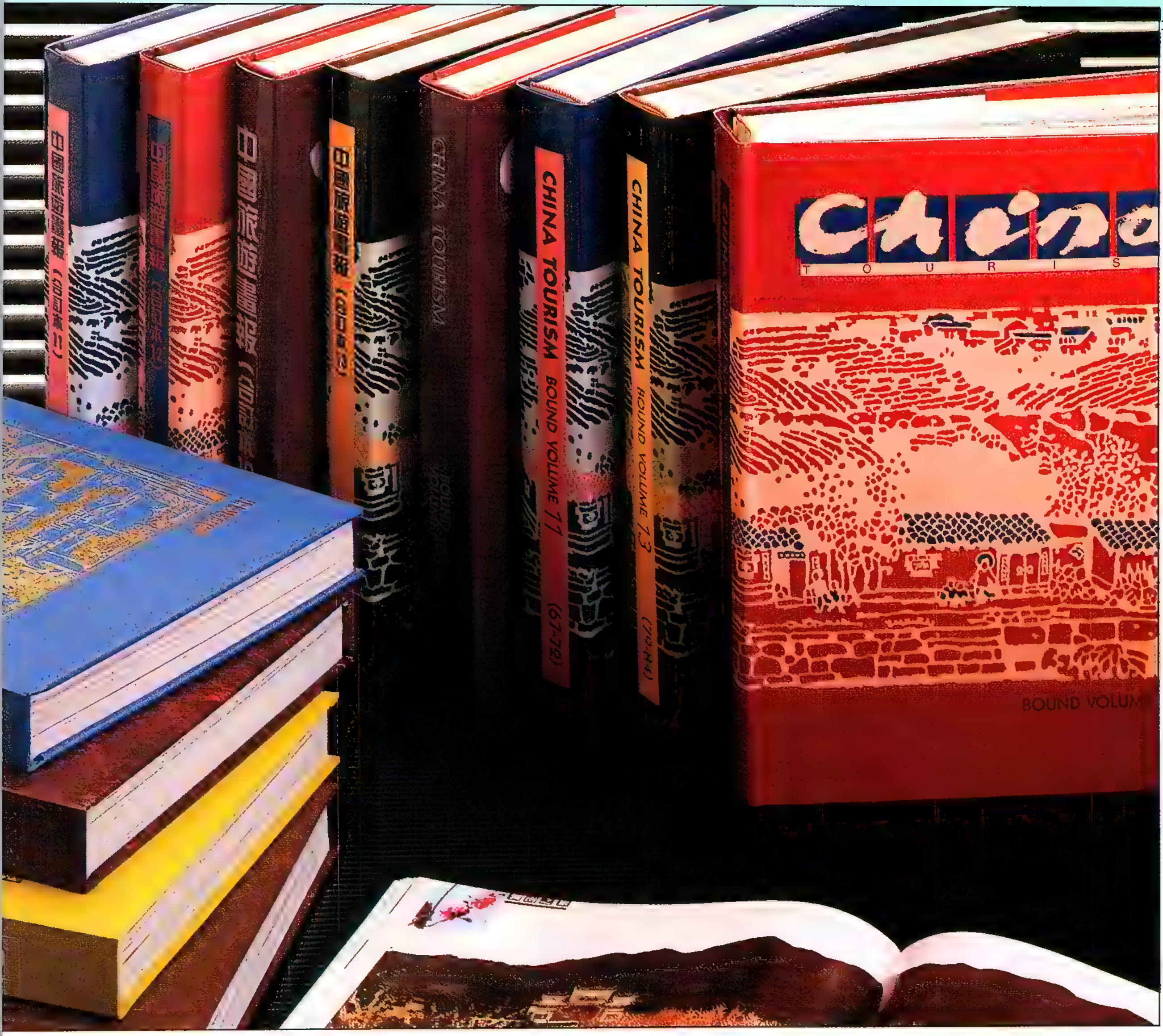

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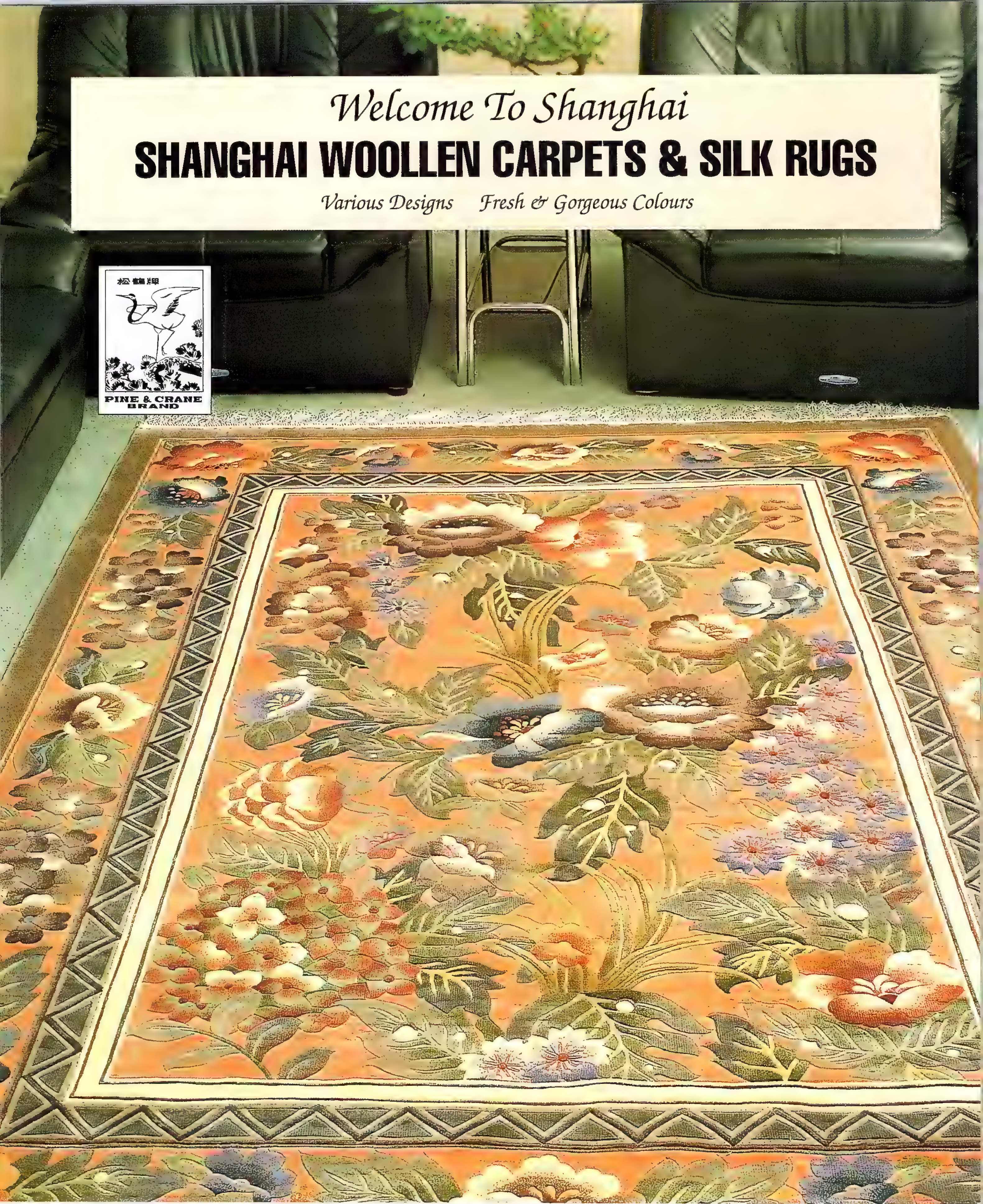

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Wang Meng at an art exhibit

Wang Meng, a Writer of Our Times

PHOTOS BY DU JIE ARTICLE BY CHEN XIAOBO

It is winter, and the man I came to interview is now laughing heartily in the sun, now lost in reverie as he paces up and down the Ming Tombs. He is sitting at his desk engrossed in writing or reading at one moment, and gazing at a masterpiece at a national painting exhibit at another. He might be comparing notes with his readers, or simply enjoying life with his wife, children and grandchildren.

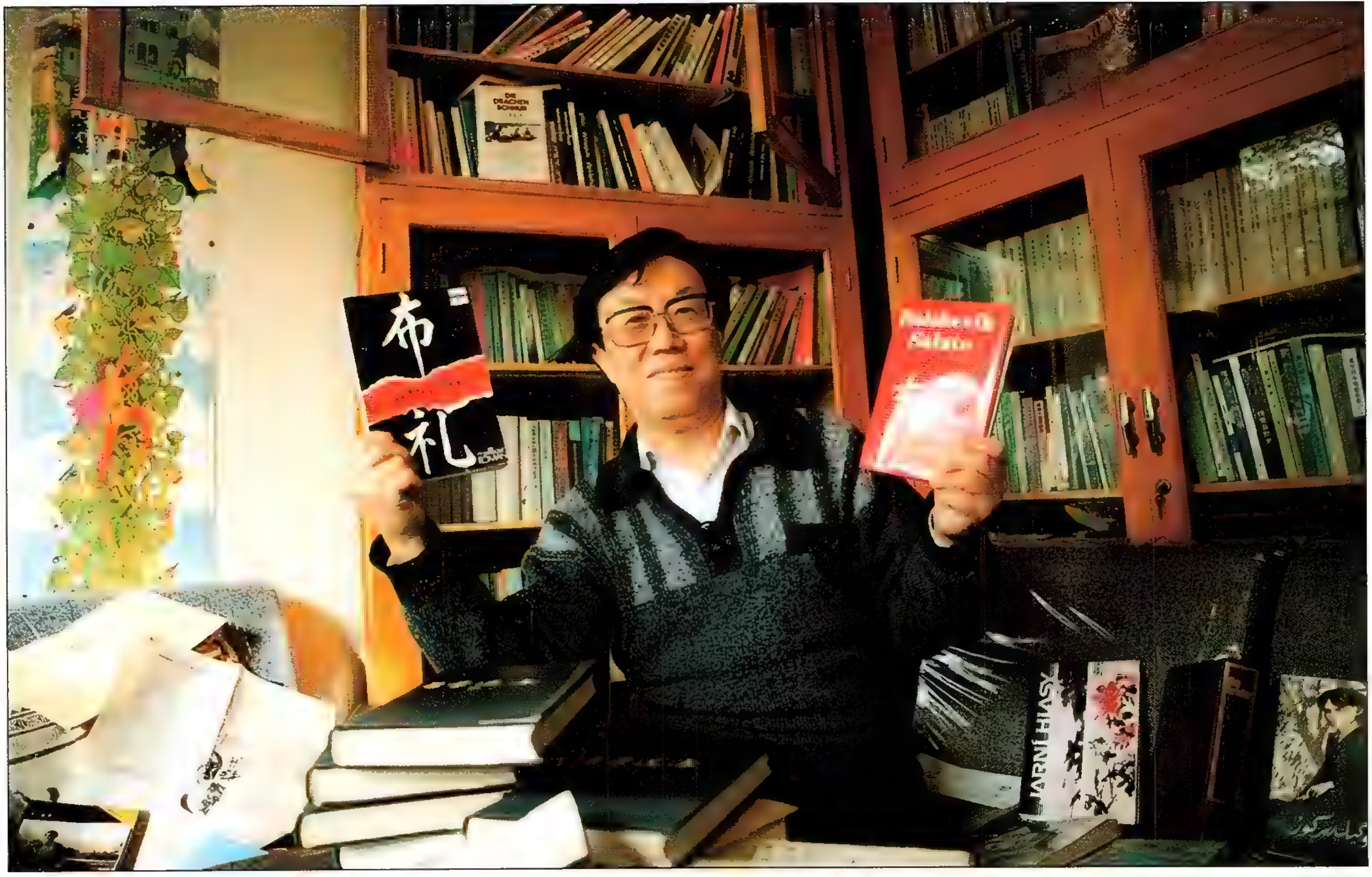
This is Wang Meng, the well-known Chinese writer as seen through the lens of our camera. Critics have dubbed him the silver-tongued genius of contemporary Chinese writing and, indeed, he commands widespread attention wherever he goes. He is respected not only for his decades of experience, but also for the millions of words he has written and for his poignant and distinctive writing style.

Author — Farmer — Minister of Culture

Wang Meng was born to a family of "intellectuals" in Beijing on October 5, 1934. He lived in his parents' home village in Hebei Province's Nanpi County for a time when he was two or three years old. Today he can still recall scenes of that short period, such as the death of his grandmother, frolicking in the pear orchard, and a night when he was roused from sleep by the sound of a horse munching his feed.

By the late 1940s Wang had grown into an enthusiastic teenager who read widely and threw himself into the current of the times. When he was 19 he wrote his first novel called *Long Live the Youth*, which recorded the lofty aspirations and love he and his companions shared. At the time, Wang thought that writers were the happiest people in the world. "I believed that as a writer, one could talk with a thousand, ten thousand or even a hundred thousand friends at the same time. A writer never feels

Wang's works have been translated into many languages and published in over 20 countries.



lonely, for he is always working together with millions of people to create the newest, most beautiful, most just and most comfortable world possible."

Life, however, was not as sweet as he had thought. In 1957 he was labelled a "Rightist" for the publication of his novella *The Young New-Comer in the Organization Department*, and that marked the beginning of a traumatic period of his life that lasted two full decades. In 1963 he was sent to Xinjiang, but despite his difficult situation, he found happiness and solace there, regarding this remote part of western China as a new world. During his 16 years there, he worked for six years as a farmer in the Red Flag Commune of Ili. The hard-working, kind Han and Uygur farmers offered him the friendship and support he needed to fight off loneliness and confusion.

The year 1979 turned a new page in the history of China and gave a new lease on life to Wang Meng and numerous other Chinese intellectuals, who had had their fill of frustrations. He moved his family back to Beijing, where he started his life afresh as a professional writer. During the height of his creativity, he wrote an average of 300,000 words a year.

In 1980 Wang Meng was elected a member of the Secretariat of the Writers' Association of China. In 1983 he also became chief editor of the journal *People's Literature*, and in May 1986 he was made Minister of Culture. Despite his busy schedule as a high-ranking official, he never stopped writing.

"What I Do Best is Writing"

Even with an interruption of 20 years, he has written more than three million words of fiction and more than two million words of poetry, prose, criticism and reportage since 1953, the year he published his first novel. Within a short time span in the early 1980s, Wang Meng surprised his reading public by coming out with a rapid succession of works, including *Bolshevik Salute, Butterflies, A Night in the City, A Deep Lake, Variegated Colours, The Ribbons Attached to a Kite, A Meeting Hard to Come By* and *In Ili*. Wang Meng has a large following in China today, and he is in fact so popular that there are people who specialize in researching the man and his works.

The ups and downs of Chinese history have provided Wang Meng with a rich reservoir of materials and life experiences. His works depict both reality and fantasy, as well as the absurdity and psychological development of the human soul. In his writing he shows an unquenchable thirst for novelty.

Humour is yet another hallmark of Wang Meng's writings. He believes that humour reflects one's highest wisdom and, whether couched in a sneer, candour or scorn, it gives expression to one's attitude towards life in times of hardship. "Wisdom, poetry and compassion are the three pillars supporting my writing, " he said. "What I do best is writing. When writing I have a feeling that I cannot otherwise express. To me writing is a happiness and pleasure. Only when I am writing something do I feel well, sleep well and enjoy what I eat and drink. If my writing stops for even a few days, I feel enraged, worried and disappointed for no reason at all, and I lose my appetite."

A Man with Many Hobbies

Humorous, straightforward and forever happy, Wang Meng loves life, his friends and his family, and maintains a keen interest in many things. With a natural talent for languages, Wang Meng is quite skilled at imitating others. While in Xinjiang, learning the Uygur language became his greatest pastime. He is so fluent in the local language that, in his own words, he could earn an M.A. degree in it and wouldn't have any problem doing simultaneous interpretation.

Wang Meng as a boy and young man **(top)**, *at home* **(middle)** *and doing morning exercises with his wife* **(bottom)**

His several visits to foreign countries in the 1980s rekindled his interest in English, which he had learnt a bit as a schoolboy. Now his English is good enough to stand him in good stead when socializing with foreigners. The summer of 1990 saw him translate nine English stories into Chinese.

Wang Meng also loves music — classical Western music, folk music, pop songs, even the *bangzi* opera of Hebei, *kunqu* opera and ballad singing. During his tenure as Minister of Culture, he spent much time deepening his understanding and love of Beijing Opera.

His middle school mathematics teacher, now an octogenarian, met with Wang Meng recently and said to him, "Who knows? Had you chosen mathematics as your major, who can say you would not have amounted to something even bigger?" Even today Wang Meng loves to mull over geometry problems. Though his education in this field is only that of a middle school student, he is eager to continue learning. He finds wisdom and joy in logic and the reasoning process.

His wife, Cui Ruifang, was the first girl he fell in love with, and she has shared both his happiness and his bitterness over the past decades. She was someone he always counted on for support during his more tortuous years. The couple has two sons and a daughter. Wang Shan, the elder son, is studying in Austria, while the younger son, Wang Shi, is living in the United States with his own family. Their daughter, Wang Yihuan, is a teacher with the Beijing Agricultural University. His is a large and happy family that many people might envy.

Visiting the Ming Tombs with his daughter and son-in-law

Write On and On

Wang, at 58, is a robust man who thinks quickly, talks quickly and acts quickly. Pointing to his shock of jet black hair, he said, "Hidden in here are dozens of white hairs." Since quitting his job as Minister of Culture in 1989, he has devoted himself entirely to writing. At present, he is working on a novel called *The Season of Love*, another work about the life of young intellectuals during the early 1950s. Different from the days when he wrote *Long Live the Youth*, he is writing this new novel as an eye-witness account of one period of recent Chinese history.

More than 100,000 words into *The Season of Love*, Wang accepted the advice of a friend and started writing on a computer. Now, as soon as the computer is switched on he becomes a study of concentration, his mind quietly transported back to the days and events of more than 40 years ago. The looks and smiles of his young friends come vividly alive as he writes, and even their most childish and absurd behaviour becomes a source of laughter.

In between writing this new novel and all his other activities, he has also found time to write a large number of articles, such as one on *A Dream of Red Mansions*, one on the Tang-dynasty poet Li Shangyin (c. 813-858) and other subjects of academic interest.

I was sitting with Wang in his small study one afternoon and all was quiet in the quadrangle. He told me, "I want to write on and on, one article after another. Although I have written so much, I have still not expressed even one-tenth of my feelings. What I want to write about is no longer limited to a period of time or a certain type of people, but the experiences or traumas in one's life that are of universal significance." There is no doubt in my mind that he will indeed "write on and on", for that is the way he is.

Translated by Ling Yuan

"Perhaps what I really want to write won't come out until later."

The Tibetan Pabatangkuo Festival

– A Rock That Transmigrates Every Twelve Years

PHOTOS BY LIU XIAOJUN   ARTICLE BY LIAO DONGFAN

Most festivals are held once a year, but there is one Tibetan festival that is held once every 12 years – the Pabatangkuo Festival, occurring only in the year of the Iron Goat according to the Tibetan calendar. This festival takes place at Razhêng (Reting) Monastery and on the vast grassland to the west of the monastery in Lhünzhub County on Lhasa's northeastern side. As there are very few opportunities to take part in this festival during one's lifetime, religious believers, pilgrims, lamas, nuns and tourists all flock to attend, making it an occasion of great importance.

Razhêng Monastery was built in 1056 by Dromtonpa (1005-1064), one of Atisha's disciples, who brought Buddhism to the area. Together they founded the Kadampa Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, and this temple became the first Kadampa temple in Tibet. By the late 13th century, this sect had initiated the system of finding the reincarnation of highly-realized lamas.

According to this system, after the lama passes away, the upper strata of the monasteries, through such activities as divination, meditation and prayer, search for male babies born at the same moment that the lama passed away. Through a series of tests, one of the babies is chosen as the reincarnated lama, or Tulku. Razhêng Monastery is where the reincarnated Tulkus of the past were trained and where they studied.

Religious believers hold that Qiog Qiongba Dorje, the chief deity of Razhêng Monastery, is the master of the secrets of Tibetan Buddhism and responds to every plea. So as soon as the Pabatangkuo Festival begins, people come to circumambulate the monastery to ask for his blessings.

In this region there is a widespread myth which goes like this: Long ago, on this very grassland a huge rock called "Pabangkuang" was found, which was said to be the palace of a flying goddess possessed of secret wisdom. Men and

▶ *Religious dances are performed by young lamas from Razhêng Monastery. Masks serve to distinguish between good and evil.*

These huge horns produce deep, sonorous music to accompany the dancers.

西藏
TIBET
林周
Lhünzhub
拉薩
Lhasa

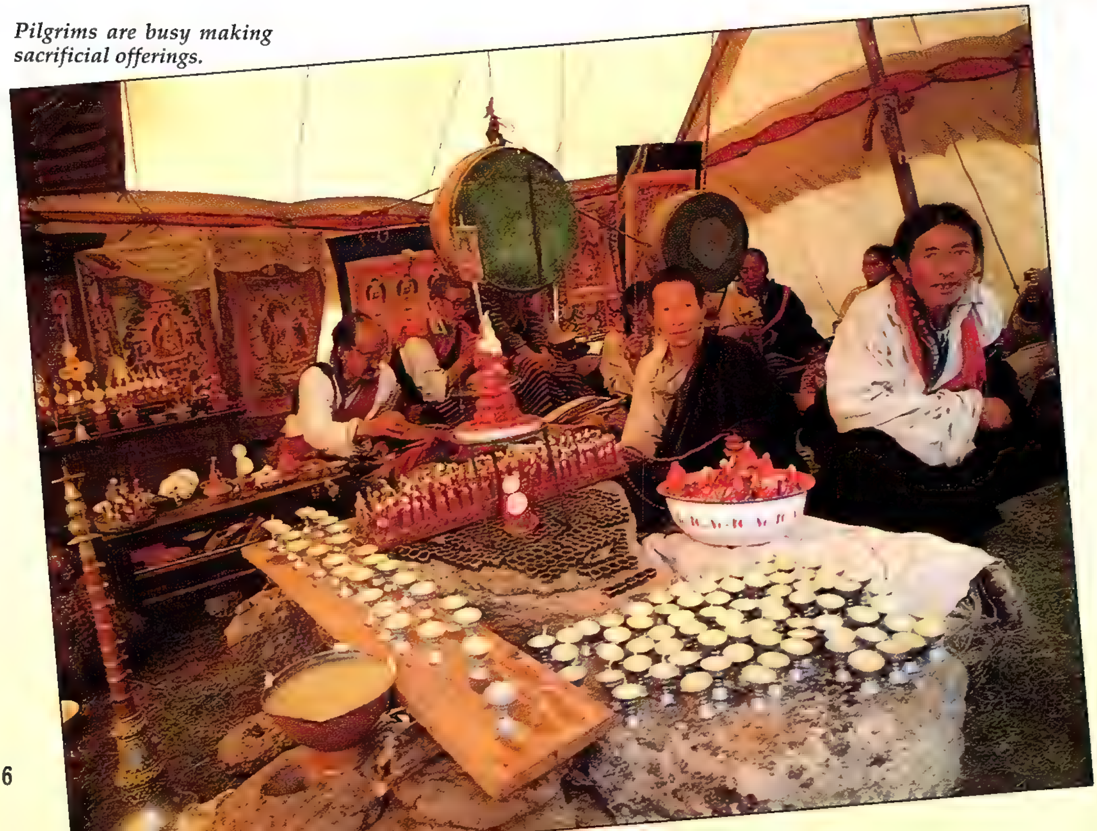
On the Pabangkuang Grassland, clouds of smoke rise up from the sacrificial altars.

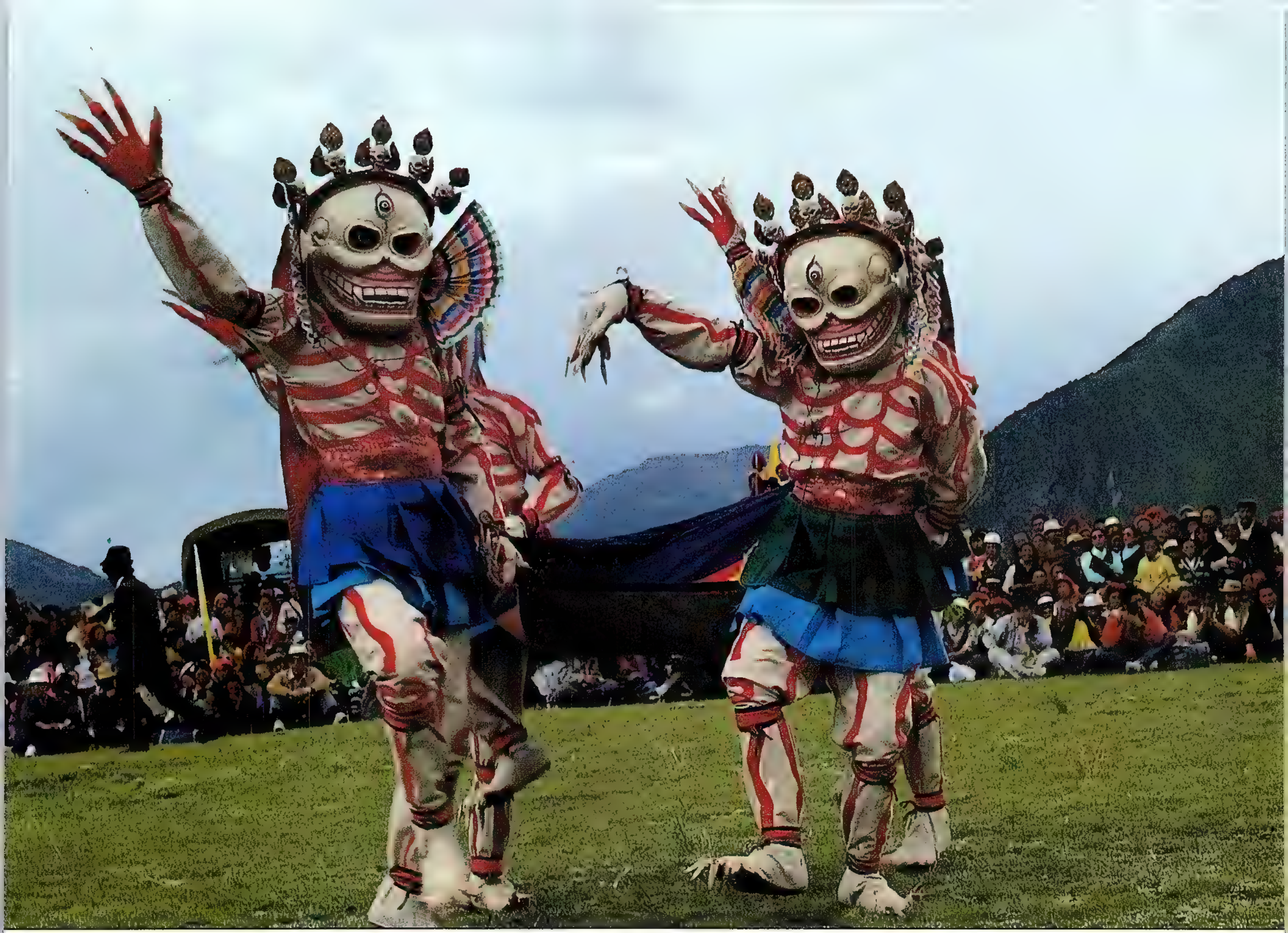
women walked around the huge rock chanting sutras, believing that by doing this, they would be reborn into a Pure Land such as the Western Paradise after they died. Religious people also believed that on the 15th day of the seventh month of the year of the Iron Goat, 100,000 flying apsaras (female fairies) headed by the goddess Sangwa Yexe would gather at Pabangkuang, thus they established a sacrificial altar to worship her. When people came on pilgrimages on this day, they received blessings directly from the goddess. This is why the Pabatangkuo Festival is held once every 12 years, and why the festival means "Rock Transmigration Festival " in Tibetan.

Normally there are only 115 monks serving at Razhêng Monastery and Pabangkuang. But during the Pabatangkuo Festival, thousands of people attend to circumambulate Razhêng Monastery, the Pabangkuang Grassland and the huge rock where Sangwa Yexe was said to have lived.

The festival's official beginning is presided over by the Razhêng high lama, and is followed by a lively horse race. After that, at the order: "Now the seizing of *co* begins!" all the pilgrims swarm towards the middle of the grassland, where there is a huge flat rock piled high with sacrificial offerings of two kinds of food known as *co* and *doma*. Lamas toss the *doma* to the crowds of pilgrims, who vie with one another to catch them. When the *doma* are all used up, the pilgrims go to catch

Pilgrims are busy making sacrificial offerings.





Wearing human skeleton costumes, these monks play the part of grave keepers – the highly respected "Guardian Gods of the Celestial Burial Platform".

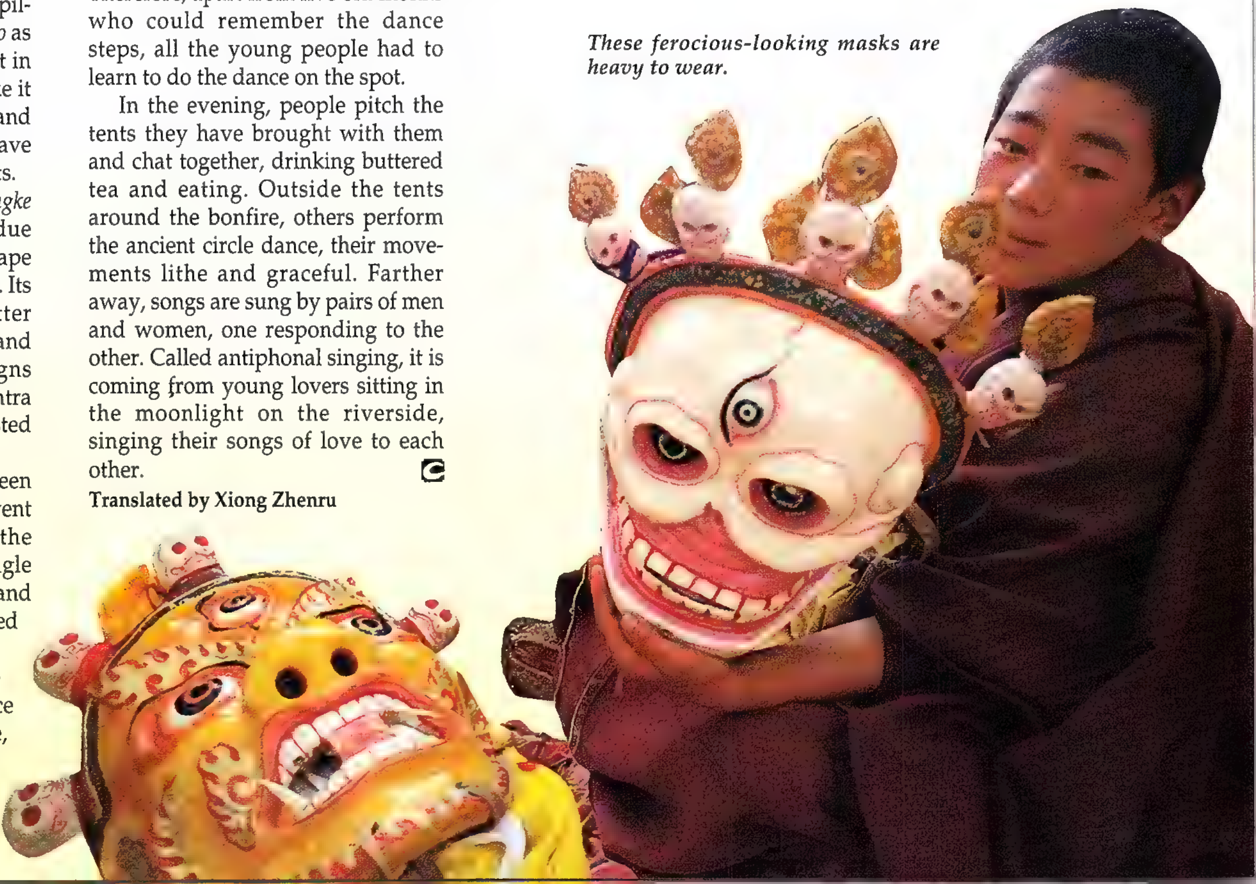
the *co*. According to tradition, those who get a piece of *co* are the lucky ones, and will have peace and happiness in their future lives. It is no wonder then that the successful pilgrims feel happy. Some eat the *co* as they walk away, and some put it in the pocket of their robes and take it home to share with their family and neighbours. The pilgrims who have failed, however, are in low spirits.

The *co* is made of roasted *qingke* barley flour, butter, milk residue and brown sugar. It is in the shape of a hill and is bright red all over. Its top is made of golden butter kneaded into several sections and painted in colours with designs based on the doctrines of the Tantra Sect. The doma is made of roasted *qingke* barley flour.

After the *co* and *doma* have been divided up, the last important event of the festival begins. Amid the blaring of conch shells and bugle calls and the beating of drums and gongs, a group of people dressed up as Buddhas, gods, guardians, fairies, ghosts and beasts are brought in, and a religious dance commences. Some are fearsome, some gentle, some twist and turn, some leap and jump, some are humorous and others crafty. This particular occasion was apparently the first time in 31 years that this dance has been performed. Therefore, apart from five old monks who could remember the dance steps, all the young people had to learn to do the dance on the spot.

In the evening, people pitch the tents they have brought with them and chat together, drinking buttered tea and eating. Outside the tents around the bonfire, others perform the ancient circle dance, their movements lithe and graceful. Farther away, songs are sung by pairs of men and women, one responding to the other. Called antiphonal singing, it is coming from young lovers sitting in the moonlight on the riverside, singing their songs of love to each other.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



These ferocious-looking masks are heavy to wear.

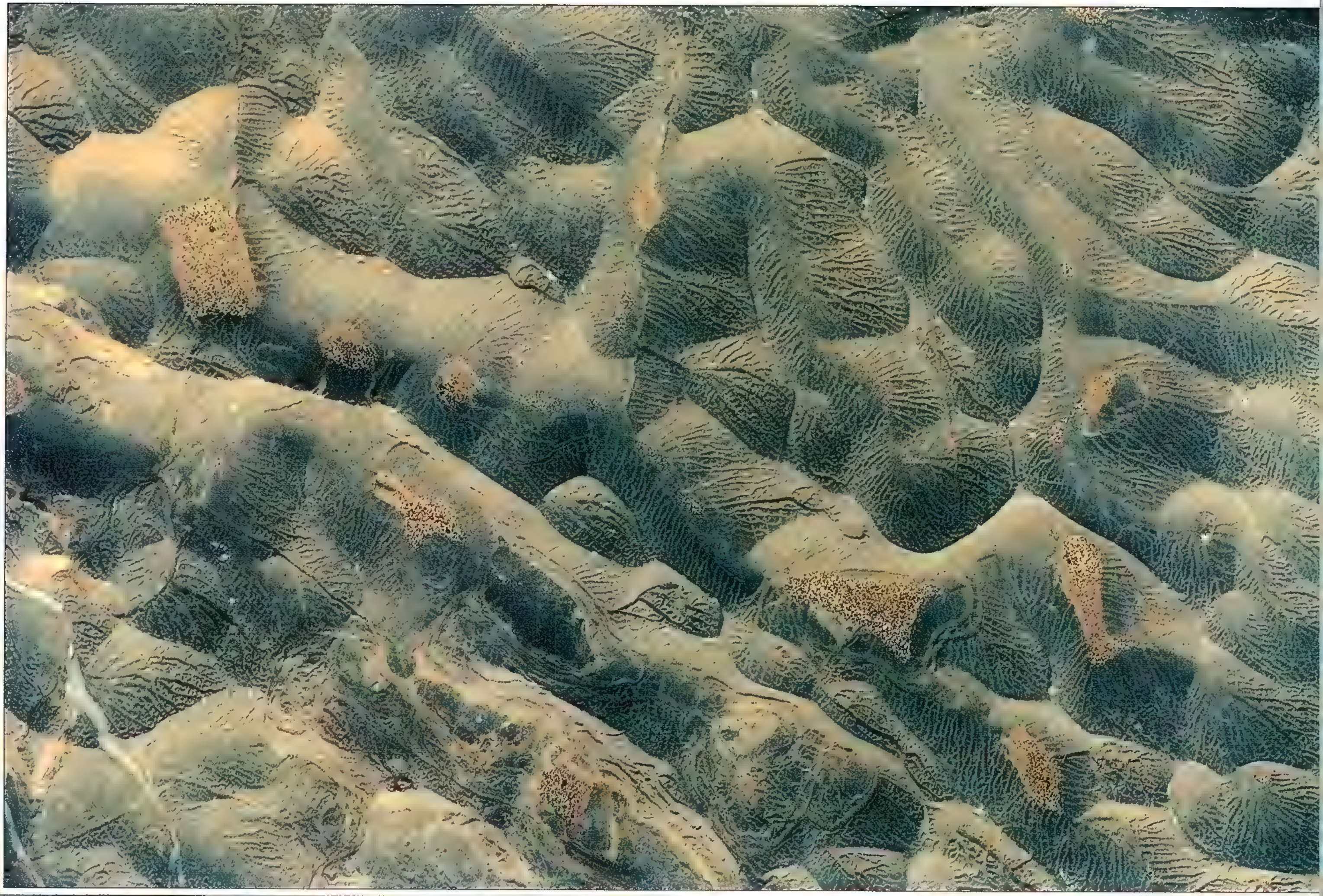
Sculpted by Nature: The Fantastic Cliffs of the Three Gorges

PHOTOS BY XIE TELI
TEXT BY WANG ZHAO

If you have ever visited the Three Gorges, you may have noticed roadside vendors selling polished stones taken from the Yangtse River. Called Three Gorges Stones, they are popular souvenirs for tourists who want to take home a piece of the landscape that makes up the beautiful Three Gorges.

Much more remarkable than these small stones, however, are the massive cliffs and layers of rock from which they came. These fantastic geological formations cannot be sold or taken home as souvenirs, but must be seen in person in all their grandeur to be fully appreciated.

The best place to see these formations is in the 42-kilometre-long Wuxia Gorge, the longest and most complete of the Three Gorges, which stretches from eastern Sichuan across to Hubei Province. I started my trip in Wanxian County and took a boat along the Yangtse to the town of Wushan, just near the border with Hubei. It is here that the "best of the best" of the Three Gorges cliffs are found — specifically between a place called Horizontal Rock and another called Blue Rock. Many of the cliffs have been given names by the local people based on stories, and the above two are no exception.



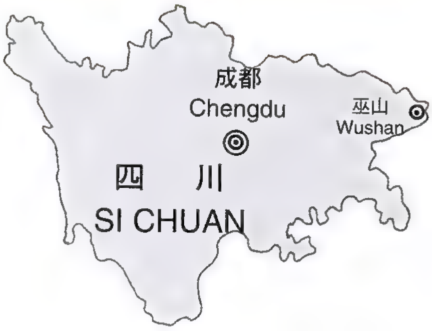
Legend has it that long, long ago there was a flood in the upper reaches of the Yangtse River. As the fishermen could not go out on the river to fish, they and their families had to subsist on their stores of rice and vegetables. One fisherman, whose wife was blind, did not want her to worry and so made porridge for her every day out of the little rice they had left, while he himself went hungry. To make her believe that there was no shortage of food, he took some stones, crushed them into grain-sized pebbles and put them in the rice container, thus when she picked it up she thought it to be full.

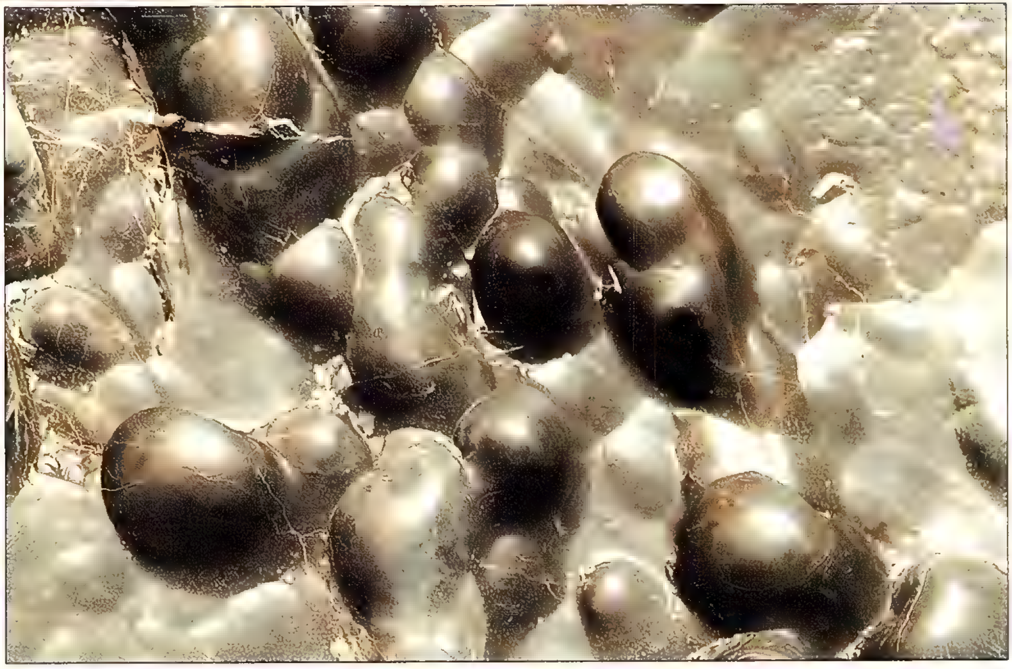
Just then a magic jumping stone was passing by and, greatly moved by the husband's devotion, leapt into the container and turned the pebbles into rice. The fisherman was overjoyed at this incredible event, and began distributing the rice to the others in his village. When this news reached the ears of the local despot, he got together some thugs, went to the man's house and forcibly took away the magic stone. The stone, however, managed to escape and jumped into the river. It split in two pieces, with one piece turning into a large horizontal rock that lay across the middle of the river, and the other into a blue rock that stood along the banks.

The boat that the despot was in smashed into the horizontal rock and threw him into the river. As he sunk to the bottom, he could be heard crying over and over, "Give me back my stone! Give me back my stone!" Thereafter, certain of the cliffs and rocks along the river came to be known by names such as Crushed Rock, Jumping Rock, Horizontal Rock and Blue Rock.

When I arrived at the banks of the river, I found that it was not very wide, but the water was moving very swiftly. I looked across at the northern bank and saw a massive, towering cliff that looked to be several hundred metres in circumference. The sunlight shining down made it glitter and appear almost transparent. The countless grooves in the rock face looked as though they had been formed by glaciers sliding down from the peak, leaving wavy lines in their wake.

I walked further on and saw on the opposite shore a "stone forest" some 10 metres high and 50 metres long. Formed by sharp,

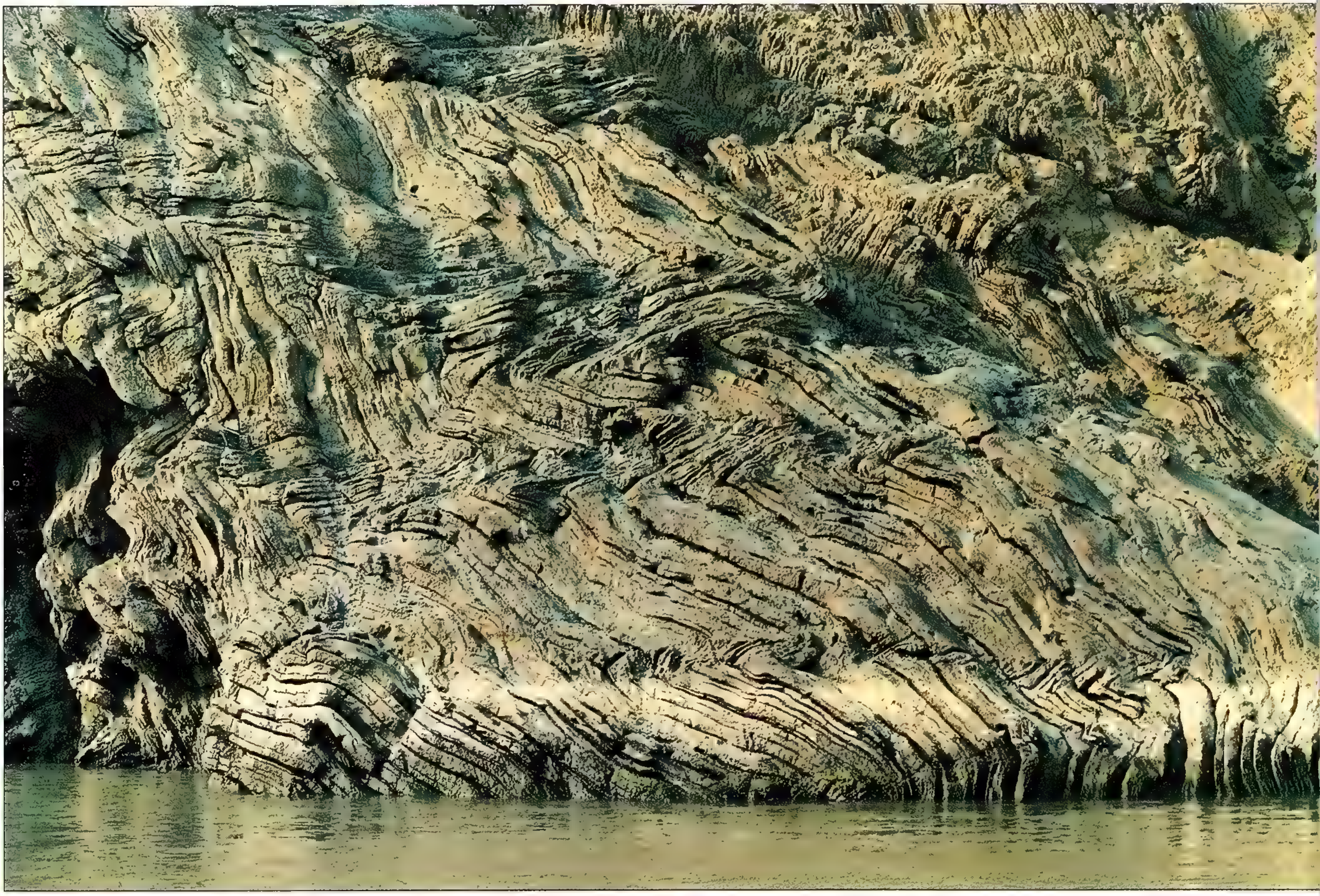




pointed rocks, the "forest" looked like an army of soldiers standing over the river with spears and swords in hand. Continuing my stroll, I soon came upon a shining white cliff, the top of which was covered with dense striations that made it resemble a piece of fine woven cloth. Even more unusual was the bottom half, which was submerged in water and consisted of a layer of shiny, protruding, black ovals, as if giant dragons had laid their eggs here.

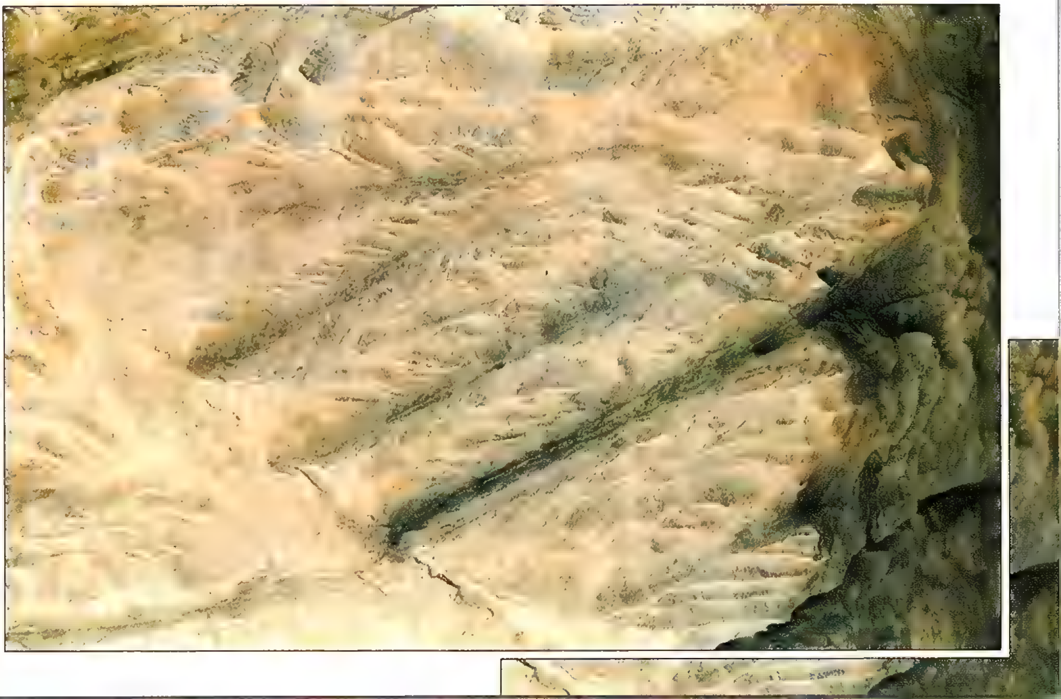
How did all of these remarkable formations come about? One has to go back in history some 200 million years to find the answer, when the Sichuan Basin was at the bottom of the sea. Much later, about 70 million years ago, a violent movement of the earth's crust took place on the Chinese continent, turning the sea into an inland lake. A watershed, or underwater ridge formed, separating it into a lake and river and sending the water of each flowing in opposite directions.

During the period from 40 to 30 million years ago, the creation of the Himalayan Mountains affected this area and caused breaks in the overlapping rock strata. The water in the river that would become known as the Yangtse cut through the watershed



and connected up with the lake. As time passed, the riverbed got deeper and deeper and the cliffs on both sides steeper and steeper, eventually forming these varied and bizarre cliff faces, each one different from the next. Thus, the Three Gorges were created by the tireless sculptor that is nature, and are today a masterpiece of chance and time, and like no other place on earth.

Translated by Roberta Raine



Shaoxing Wine

– A Connoisseur's Favourite for Centuries

TEXT BY JIN HONG

The city of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province is famed for several things: its waterways and black awning boats, its many bridges and its wine. Shaoxing wine comes in many varieties, the most well-known brands being Yuanhong, Jiafan, Shanniang, Xiangxue, Xianniang and Zhuyeqing. One can find Shaoxing wine served at state banquets and sold in shops throughout the world.

Shaoxing wine is made of cooked glutinous rice and yeast, and has the unique quality of being sour, sweet, bitter, hot and refreshing all at the same time. It is also fragrant, mellow, soft and smooth. It can be used either as a beverage, a condiment or medicine. The longer it is aged, the better tasting it becomes. It is stored in earthenware vats or jars, sealed with a mud cover and then left to ferment.

Shaoxing wine owes its good taste to the clear water drawn from the mirror-like Jianhu Lake, whose source is on Kuaiji Mountain. The clear lake water and the fragrant glutinous rice, after being brewed by great masters, become amber-coloured Shaoxing wine. For centuries every family living in the neighbourhood of Jianhu Lake has learned to distill wine. Quite a few of the big wineries were passed down from generation to generation. Once it is ready for sale, jars of Shaoxing wine are carried by boat along a network of water channels to all parts of the country.

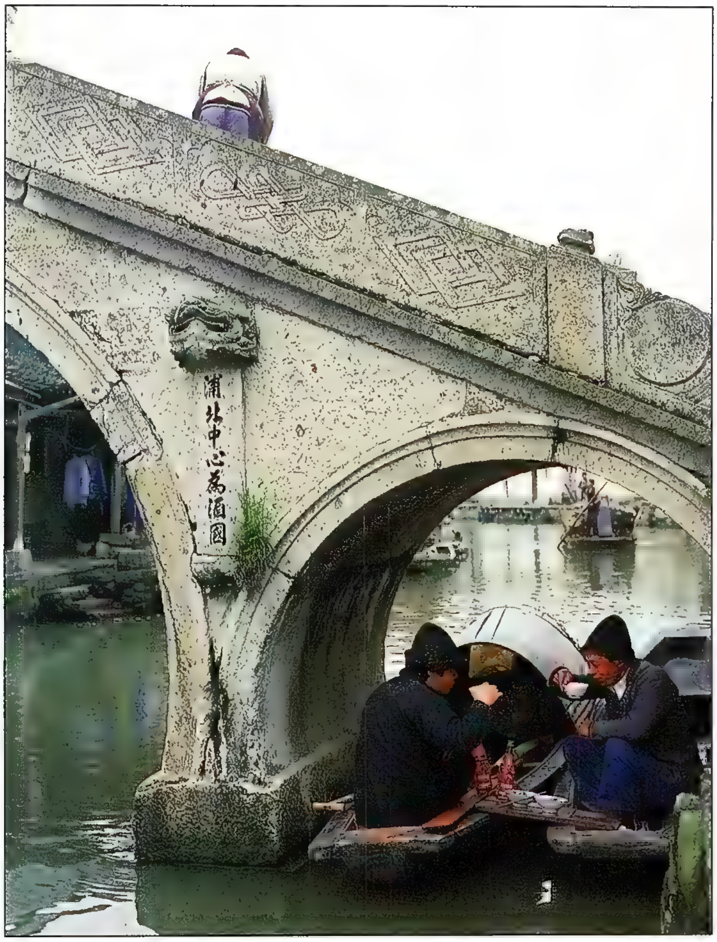
Traditional vats are still used for storing Shaoxing wine (by Peng Zhen Ge).

The history of Shaoxing wine making dates back to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). At that time, the king of the State of Yue wanted to seek revenge on the king of the State of Wu for having been conquered. Before Gou Jian, the King of Yue, set off for battle, his people sent him many jars of wine to boost his morale. Gou Jian poured the wine into a river and shared it with all his generals and soldiers. His army fought bravely and conquered the State of Wu, avenging their king. The river – which flows through Shaoxing – has since been known as the "Pouring Wine River", and testifies to the long history of Shaoxing wine.

Quite naturally, the people of Shaoxing have always had a particular affection for wine. Wang Xizhi (321-379), a great calligrapher of the Jin Dynasty, always had a full cup of wine at hand. He and his friends often met at Lanting Pavilion, which is situated on a zigzagging stream.

Glutinous rice is the main ingrediant used in making Shaoxing wine (by Pan Honghai).

A quick meal of food and wine under one of Shaoxing's many bridges (by Ren Jing)



In March the waterways are full of boats transporting the wine (by Pan Honghai).

They would play a sort of drinking game, whereby a cup of wine was floated down the stream. When it stopped in front of a person, he had to compose a poem immediately or drink the wine as a penalty. This interesting anecdote about him has been retold time and again.

As you stroll along the lanes and streets of Shaoxing you can smell wine in the air everywhere. When I was there, I came upon this heartwarming scene: A grandfather was sipping wine at a small table. His grandson, a toddler, staggered to him, his eyes fixed on the cup and dish. The grandfather dipped his chopsticks into his cup and put them into his grandson's mouth, and then gave him two beans flavoured with aniseed. Both the old man and his grandson shared the wine and food with great relish, just as people have been doing here for hundreds of years.

Translated by Anne Yan

Customers in the Xianheng Wine Shop (by Yang Naiyan)

602 108
8465 酒153
797 酒143
623 酒110
1071 酒170
1075 酒175
1078 酒178
1090 酒182

Newly brewed wine must always be strained by a master before it can be sold (by Peng Zhen Ge).

Nantong's Embroidered Tapestries

PHOTOS BY ER DONGQIANG

In the city of Nantong, located on the north bank of the Yangtse River near Shanghai, the local people have developed a unique form of embroidery. Using common gunnysack or linen as backing, the artisans create colourful images that represent the culture and traditions of people living along the Yangtse River. A variety of stiches are combined with appliqué — sewing felt or cloth directly onto the picture — to create vivid and colourful images that can be hung on the walls of one's home. Some of the artisans let their imaginations run wild and create wonderful three-dimensional tapestries, such as the one on this page.

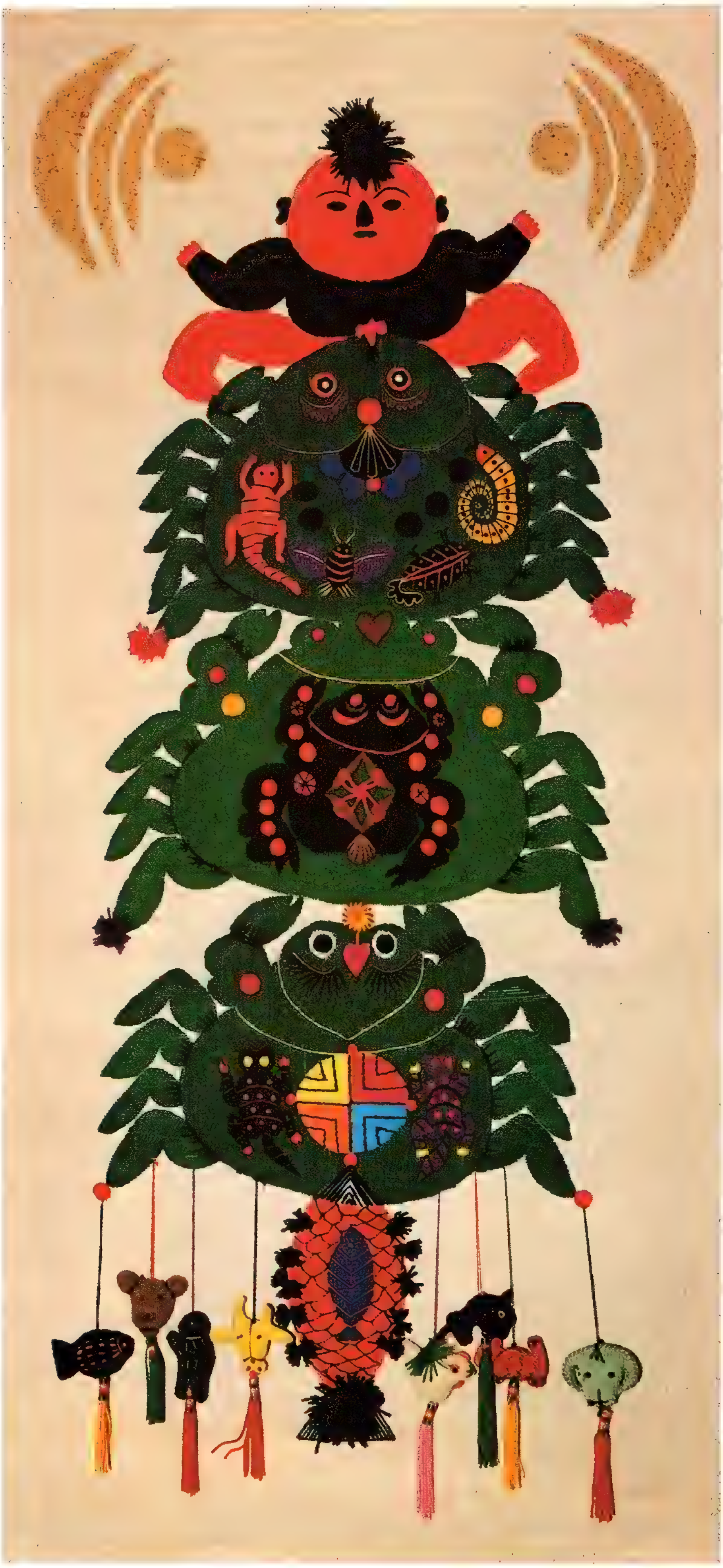
Right: A chubby boy is sitting astride three crabs, on which are embroidered several of the traditional five evil-expelling poisonous creatures (centipedes, geckos, bees, snakes and toads), along with other creatures or insects. Embroidered domestic animals and fish are hung from the bottom. All these images reflect the hope for a good harvest for the people living near the water.

Facing page, top right: In *Nezha Raises Havoc on the East Sea*, the Dragon King is being forced into submission by Nezha. This story expresses the accumulated aspirations of the people living at the Yangtse River estuary, who are challenged by the East China Sea all year round.

Facing page, top left: This picture of a cowherd playing a flute while sitting atop a water buffalo was executed in brilliant colours.

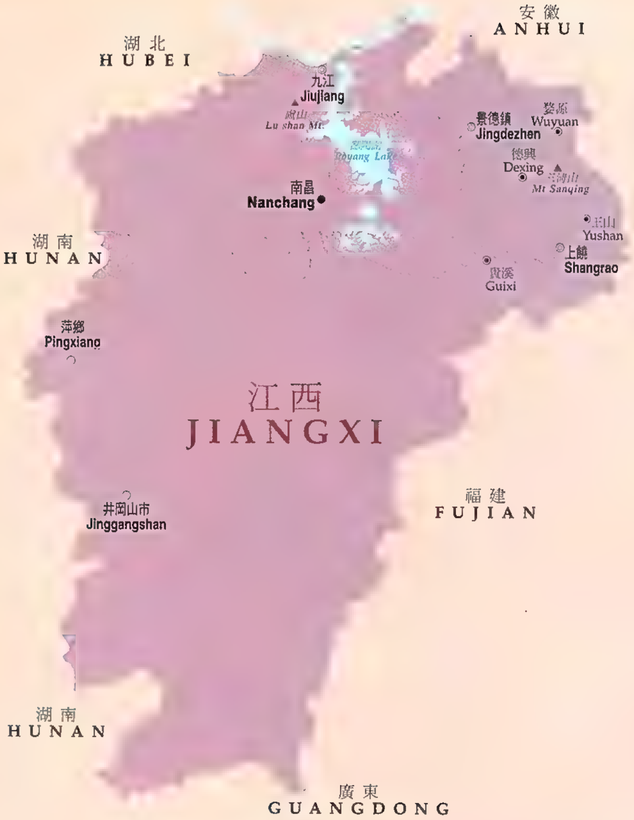
Facing page, bottom: On the right, the embroidery of fish on celadon plates indicates the concept of "every year there is a surplus" (in Chinese, "fish" and "surplus" are homonyms). On the left, an image of a farmer selling fruit has the symbolism of hoping for a good harvest in the coming year.

Translated by K.V. Ku



吉餘圖
吉羊

A Suggested Tour of Northern Jiangxi



Relatively little-known Jiangxi Province is situated in the southern part of China and is surrounded by Guangdong to the south, Fujian to the east, Anhui and Hubei to the north, and Hunan to the west. This often overlooked province is only now starting to be extensively explored by foreign travellers, therefore there are countless out-of-the-way places and seldom-visited towns. The only railway in the province is in the north, stretching from east to west and branching off south almost as far as Jinggang Mountain.

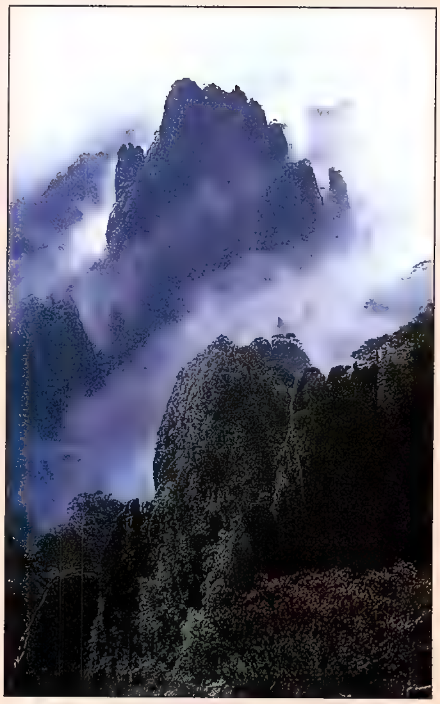
As facilities are better and known scenic sites more numerous in the north, touring that part of the province is recommended. In addition, magnificent Huangshan Mountain is just across the border in Anhui Province, and from there one can easily visit the various places of interest in northern Jiangxi. These include the ancient county of Wuyuan, the remote Taoist sanctuary of Sanqing Mountain, the porcelain centre of Jingdezhen, Poyang Lake, Lushan Mountain and the city of Jiujiang.

Wuyuan

Not far from Huangshan – though not on the train route – is a county called Wuyuan, situated deep in a mountainous area. It can be reached by a three-hour bus ride from Huangshan Mountain or a longer bus ride from Shangrao. Not on any tourist route, Wuyuan is an ideal place to visit for those who enjoy tranquil villages, beautiful rural scenery and ancient architecture. Many of the towns in Wuyuan County, such as Qingyuan, Xiaoqi, Likeng and Sixi, are full of architectural complexes from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Wuyuan has been a secluded area since its founding back in 740, and has a history as being a place where scholars and officials would go to retire and live in peace and seclusion. It is surrounded by water on three sides, and is a renowned area for tea cultivation. In addition, Wuyuan is one of the few places in Jiangxi where one can see the *nuo* dance performed. *Nuo* is an ancient dance done by many peoples in southern China to ward off evil spirits. The *nuo* masks and dances commonly found in Guizhou Province originally came from Jiangxi. These days the *nuo* dance is not only used to ward off evil, but also includes drama, martial arts and other folk arts, making it more of a form of entertainment than in the past.

Sanqing Mountain shrouded in mist and clouds



Jingdezhen

From Wuyuan one has two choices: head south to Sanqing Mountain or west to Jingdezhen, a well-known porcelain producing city. One can still see the traditional way of making porcelain at the Ancient Ceramic and Porcelain Exhibit Area, and there is also a Ceramics Museum. The city holds an annual International Ceramics Festival (this year set for October 11-14), which attracts thousands of art lovers from all over the world.

Besides the many porcelain factories and workshops in Jingdezhen, one can also visit Wufeng Pagoda and Yanbo Hall in Renmin Park, or stroll along the city's Ming-dynasty street, where architecture from that time has been preserved. The

80-metre-long granite street is flanked by old stone buildings, temples and archways. In addition, 10 kilometres away is the Old City of Jingdezhen, which once was a walled city but now is mostly in ruins. Nonetheless, there is a seven-storey Tang-dynasty pagoda and a *yamen* (county magistrate's office) still standing.

Sanqing Mountain

If porcelain is not your cup of tea, Sanqing Mountain is a short bus ride south from Wuyuan, and is nestled at the border of Yushan County and Dexing City. It is considered a "sister mountain" to the much more famous Huangshan nearby, but is so unknown that it does not even appear on most maps. Yet it is one of the 72 Taoist sanctuaries in China, and from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to the Ming (1368-1644), some 10,000 Taoist faithful a day came to the mountain. During the following Qing Dynasty, Taoism gradually came to be replaced by Buddhism, which Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) officially promoted.

The mountain has only been "rediscovered" in recent years, and its few structures need repair, but if you enjoy going places where few tourists venture, this is an ideal choice. Guides can be hired for the long and arduous walk up the mountain's many peaks, and 8,000 stone steps lead to the top. At about 1,300 metres up, there is a villa where one can stay overnight, sleeping literally in the clouds. Another 200 or so metres higher is Yutai Peak, and beyond that is Yujing Peak, the highest, and Yuhuangding Peak, which is extremely steep and has a very small surface area at the top. Any of these peaks, as well as others, can be scaled, but one must be very cautious.

At 1,500 metres sits an ancient Taoist temple called Sanqing Fudi, where three Taoist immortals are worshipped along with the Buddhist Bodhisattva Guanyin and 18 arhats. A few Taoist priests, both male and female, still live in the temple, far above the cares of the material world.

Poyang Lake

The next possible stop on this westward tour, whether one is coming from Jingdezhen or Sanqing Mountain (via Shangrao), is the vast Poyang Lake just north of Nanchang. There is much to see around the lake, such as quaint towns and temples, and after a visit to the lake one can go on to Lushan Mountain and the city of Jiujiang, where one can connect up with the railway or get onward flights.

Poyang Lake is China's largest freshwater lake, although in winter its waters shrink to one-eighth their volume in summer. To see the sites around the lake one can either charter a boat through the Jiujiang CTS (China Travel Service) office, or take public transport. Regular boat service is available between many of the towns, including Hukou, Wucheng, Xingzi, Duchang, Ruihong and Boyang. Each of these places is interesting in itself, and one can find hotels in most of them.

An ancient street in Wucheng

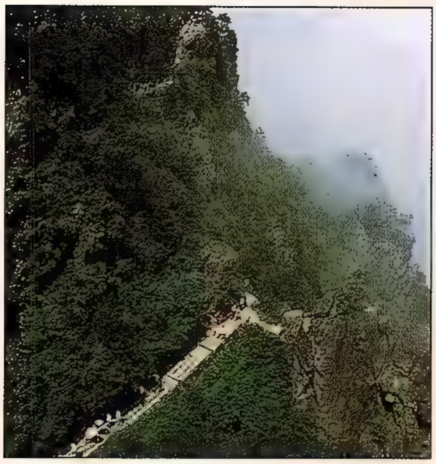
Wucheng is also the administrative centre of the Lake Poyang Migratory Birds Conservation Zone, which is in the most western corner of the lake. At the centre in Wucheng one can hire boats and local guides. The best times for bird watching on the lake are from October to March, and tours can be organized through the Jiujiang CTS office, or in Hong Kong through the Jiangxi (HK) Tourist Co. Ltd. at tel. 543-8432.

Lushan Mountain and Jiujiang

From Poyang Lake one can get a glimpse of Lushan Mountain, where a summer resort was established by foreigners in the late Qing Dynasty. The town of Guling, the main hill station, had some 100 summer bungalows, one of which belonged to Chiang Kai-shek. Thus the top of the mountain is dotted with European-style cottages, churches and hotels.

Getting to Guling, situated at the top of the mountain, is half the fun. The road winds its way up the steep mountainsides, and looking out the bus window, one can see sheer cliffs and terraced paddy fields below. The easiest way to reach Guling is by bus from Jiujiang, a two-hour ride, or from Nanchang, which takes about twice that long.

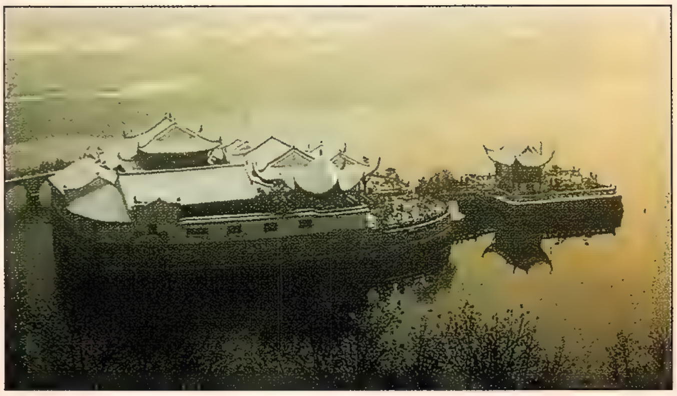
Lushan has a total of 99 peaks and stands at over 1,400 metres above sea level. There are 52 preserved cultural and historical relics scattered over the mountain, many temples and monasteries, a botanical garden, a Song-dynasty academy, plus lush valleys, waterfalls and limestone caves with underground rivers.



Lushan Mountain – one of Jiangxi's major tourist attractions

The last stop on this tour is the city of Jiujiang, just north of Lushan. Its history goes back as far as the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.), and therefore contains many ancient structures. Yanshui Pavilion, now a museum, stands in the middle of Gantang Lake and is connected to the shoreline by a causeway. The oldest extant group of buildings in the city is Nengren Monastery, constructed in the early 500s. Next to that is the Dasheng Pagoda, and outside of the city is the Suojiang Pagoda, built in 1585.

Perhaps the most famous building in the area, however, lies at the foot of Lushan Mountain about 22 kilometres from Jiujiang. Called Donglin Monastery, it is where Hui Yuan (334-417) founded the Pure Land Sect of Buddhism. The temple was built in 386 and flourished for over 1,000 years. At its zenith in the Tang Dynasty, some 10,000 monks lived in its over 300 halls. Today five of those halls have been newly restored and there is a resident community of around 20 monks, who hold daily services.



Guling – the main resort centre on Lushan Mountain

Average Climatic Conditions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Wuhan

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Guangzhou	Temperature (℃)	13.3	14.4	17.9	21.9	25.6	27.2	28.4	28.1	26.9	23.7	19.4	15.2
	Rainfall (mm)	36.9	54.5	80.7	175.0	293.8	287.8	212.7	232.5	189.3	69.2	37.0	24.7
Shenzhen	Temperature (℃)	14.1	15.0	18.4	22.2	25.7	27.3	28.2	27.8	26.6	23.7	19.7	15.9
	Rainfall (mm)	27.2	43.0	58.1	133.3	247.3	326.6	327.4	346.0	268.8	96.2	35.9	23.5
Wuhan	Temperature (℃)	8.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	12.0	10.0
	Rainfall (mm)	30.0	50.0	100.0	150.0	160.0	200.0	130.0	100.0	90.0	60.0	50.0	40.0

Train Schedules
Guangzhou – Shenzhen

543 O.	501 O.	201 F.T.	S63 F.T.	S61 F.T.	Train No. Station	S62 F.T.	S64 F.T.	202 F.T.	502 O.	544 O.
	09:12	17:15		16:30	**Guangzhou**	20:06	21:16	23:19	23:09	
06:18	09:35	–	18:30	–	**Guangzhou East**	–	–	–	22:57	19:27
06:37	10:04	–	–	–	**Xiayuan**	–	–	–	22:25	19:07
06:59	11:11	–	18:57	–	**Xiancun**	–	–	–	21:32	18:46
07:12	11:27	–	19:10	–	**Shitan**	–	–	–	21:16	18:32
07:43	12:04	18:40	19:30	–	**Shilong**	19:08	20:28	–	20:38	17:46
08:00	12:28	–	–	17:38	**Hengli**	–	–	–	20:12	17:26
08:10	12:37	–	–	17:48	**Changping**	–	–	–	19:46	17:16
08:50	12:59	19:28	20:06	–	**Zhangmutou**	18:33	19:48	–	19:10	–
09:44	14:43	–	–	–	**Buji**	–	–	–	17:41	–
	14:57	20:11	20:49	18:58	**Shenzhen**	17:50	19:05	21:20	17:22	16:25

S — Shenzhen F.T. — Fast through passenger train O. — Ordinary passenger train

Train Schedules
Qingdao – Lancun – Jinan

319 O.	311/314 O.	111/114 F.T.	105/108 F.T.	25 Exp.	T.11 Exp.	Train No. Station	T.12 Exp.	26 Exp.	106/107 F.T.	112/113 F.T.	312/313 O.	320 O.
	From Xuzhou	From Shenyang	From Tonghua	From Beijing				To Beijing	To Tonghua	To Shenyang	To Xuzhou	
21:52	14:33	05:56	23:16	08:10	07:51	**Jinan**	19:04	14:43	13:50	21:49	12:42	20:06
23:50	16:26	07:44	00:55	19:49	09:16	**Zibo**	17:43	13:17	12:08	20:14	10:58	18:17
00:23	16:58	–	01:23	–	–	**Linzi**	–	–	11:37	–	10:21	17:05
00:47	17:20	08:26	–	–	–	**Qingzhou**	–	–	–	19:26	09:56	16:41
01:50	18:21	09:28	02:31	11:17	10:32	**Weifang**	16:27	11:43	10:31	18:30	08:59	15:45
02:53	19:23	10:30	–	–	–	**Gaomi**	–	–	–	17:12	07:41	14:27
03:23	19:52	–	03:54	–	–	**Jiaozhou**	–	–	08:55	–	07:15	14:01
03:50	20:24	11:17	04:20	–	–	**Lancun**	–	–	08:32	16:31	06:52	13:38
05:15	21:08	–	–	–	–	**Cangkou**	–	–	–	–	06:17	13:02
06:00	21:37	12:07	05:10	13:39	12:50	**Qingdao**		09:04	07:30	15:36	05:45	12:24

Exp. — Express T. — Tourist Special Train

Train Schedules
Beijing – Zhengzhou – Wuchang – Guangzhou

257 F.T.	253 F.T.	251 F.T.	245 F.T.	243 F.T.	37 Exp.	29 Exp.	15 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train No. Station	2 Exp.	16 Exp.	30 Exp.	38 Exp.	244 F.T.	246 F.T.	252 F.T.	254 F.T.	258 F.T.
		23:55	12:59		18:14	22:30	00:30	09:01	**Beijing**	20:22	04:30	06:00	13:21		04:00	06:45		
	11:44	–	–		–	–	–	–	**Beijing South**	–	–	–	–		–	–	03:20	
	16:04	04:54	17:41		21:54	01:57	03:57	12:28	**Shijiazhuang**	17:02	01:14	02:44	09:48		00:04	02:09	23:18	
	19:23	08:00	21:01		00:41	–	–	15:27	**Anyang**	14:02	–	–	07:00		20:45	22:50	19:48	
20:54	22:04	10:49	23:59	14:35	03:14	06:56	08:56	18:11	**Zhengzhou**	11:17	20:10	21:40	04:28	05:17	17:58	19:34	16:40	08:38
02:08			04:32	19:09	07:16	10:53	12:53	22:13	**Xinyang**	07:09	16:10	17:40	00:24	00:48	13:03			03:38
05:43			07:53	22:47	10:31	–	–	01:26	**Hankou**	03:48	–	–	21:03	20:48	09:32			23:56
06:24			08:16	23:22	10:54	14:21	16:21	02:01	**Wuchang**	03:09	12:29	13:59	20:23	19:51	08:53			23:12
10:30				03:14			19:33	05:15	**Yueyang**	23:58	09:19			16:03				19:29
12:50				05:45		19:27	21:41	07:13	**Changsha**	21:50	07:15	08:59		13:45				17:05
				09:00		22:21	00:35		**Hengyang**		04:19	06:03		10:20				
				14:36		03:20	05:36		**Shaoguan**		23:21	01:07		04:40				
							08:45		**Guangzhou**		20:00	21:46		00:43				

Flights to and from Qingdao

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing – Qingdao	4	14:30	15:40	X2143
	7	17:25	18:35	X2145
	4 7	11:20	12:30	SF514
	34 6	08:05	09:15	CA1575
	1 345 7	18:50	20:00	MU5116
	1234567	21:00	22:05	MU5114
Qingdao – Beijing	4	16:55	18:05	X2144
	7	19:20	20:30	X2145
	4 7	17:20	18:30	SF513
	34 6	10:00	11:05	CA1576
	1 345 7	16:50	18:00	MU5115
	1234567	08:00	09:10	MU5113
Guangzhou – Qingdao	2	10:10	12:40	G8601
	2 4 6	17:20	20:15	MU5392
	1 34 6	15:05	17:45	CZ3533
	1 3 5 7	19:00	21:50	MU5334
Qingdao – Guangzhou	2	13:40	16:00	G8602
	1 34 6	18:45	21:35	CZ3534
	1234567	07:30	10:40	MU5321
Shanghai – Qingdao	5	16:15	17:35	MU5996
	1 5	11:50	13:00	SZ4570
	2 6	07:15	08:25	SF555
	1234567	14:50	16:00	MU5508
Qingdao – Shanghai	5	07:15	08:40	MU5995
	1 5	09:55	11:05	SZ4569
	2 6	09:05	10:15	SF556
	1234567	07:35	08:45	MU5507
Shenzhen – Qingdao	4	15:55	18:55	CZ3557
	2 7	11:40	14:40	MU5352
Qingdao – Shenzhen	4	19:45	22:45	CZ3558
	2 7	08:05	10:55	MU5351
Wuhan – Qingdao	3	13:00	14:40	CZ3641
Qingdao – Wuhan	3	20:40	22:20	CZ3642
Xi'an – Qingdao	1	08:05	09:55	WH2525
	3	07:45	09:55	WH2535
	5	07:35	09:40	WH2543
	7	09:40	11:40	WH2573
Qingdao – Xi'an	1	10:45	12:55	WH2526
	3	10:45	13:15	WH2536
	5	15:50	18:25	WH2544
	7	12:30	14:35	WH2574

(Valid to October 1994)

Flights to and from Nanchang

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing – Nanchang	1	16:15	18:35	GP7155
	6	12:45	15:05	GP7159
	2 5	17:20	19:20	CA1511
	1 34 67	13:15	15:15	CA1511
Nanchang – Beijing	1	19:10	21:20	GP7156
	6	15:45	18:05	GP7160
	1234567	20:00	21:50	CA1512
Guangzhou – Nanchang	2 6	11:10	12:10	CZ3925
	1 4 6	18:15	19:10	CZ8992
	1234567	19:05	20:05	CZ3327
Nanchang – Guangzhou	3 6	08:45	10:10	MU5361
	2 567	17:30	18:40	CZ3536
Shanghai – Nanchang	1234567	06:55	08:15	MU5505
Nanchang – Shanghai	1234567	13:55	15:05	MU5506
Shenzhen – Nanchang	1 4 7	11:20	13:00	MU5354
Nangchang – Shenzhen	1 4 7	08:50	10:20	MU5353

(Valid to October 1994)

Flights to and from Wuhan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing – Wuhan	4	16:55	18:50	CZ3134
	6	19:55	21:40	CZ3136
	7	21:05	22:35	CZ3138
	1 4	17:25	19:10	SZ4734
	12 5	09:40	11:25	CZ3118
	1 3 6	20:55	22:35	CZ3138
	2 4 6	09:20	11:15	CA1323
	12 45 7	19:00	20:40	WU122
	1234567	08:25	10:05	CA1333
	1234567	13:25	15:05	CA1367
Wuhan – Beijing	5	18:40	20:30	CZ3135
	2 4 6	16:55	18:50	CA1324
	1 3 67	18:15	20:10	CZ3137
	12 45 7	16:30	18:20	WU121
Guangzhou – Wuhan	3	10:40	12:10	CZ3360
	1 4	13:35	15:30	CA1382
	1 5	15:50	17:20	CZ3362
	2 7	15:20	16:30	CZ3942
	3 7	13:55	15:45	CA1384
	1 3 5	16:50	18:20	SF393
	2 4 6	14:35	16:20	CA1326
	12 45	19:10	20:40	CZ3348
	1 456	15:20	16:50	CZ3342
	234 6	21:00	22:30	CZ3350
	23 67	15:40	17:10	CZ3346
	2345 7	09:20	10:40	WU312
	1234567	21:10	22:30	CZ3344
Wuhan – Guangzhou	6	07:30	09:00	CZ3359
	1 4	11:40	13:10	CA1381
	1 5	07:05	08:35	CZ3361
	3 7	11:15	13:05	CA1383
	1 3 5	14:25	15:55	SF394
	23 7	08:10	09:40	CZ3993
	2 4 6	11:55	13:45	CA1325
	3 5 7	12:45	14:15	CZ3345
	12 45	16:45	18:15	CZ3347
	12 4 6	14:20	15:40	CZ3343
	234 6	18:40	20:10	CZ3349
	2345 7	07:10	08:30	WU311
	1234567	07:15	08:45	CZ3341
Hangzhou – Wuhan	2	19:30	20:40	CZ3542
	5 7	16:40	18:30	MU5905
	2 4 6	10:25	12:20	WU572
Wuhan – Hangzhou	2	17:30	18:40	CZ3541
	5 7	19:10	21:00	MU5906
	2 4 6	08:00	09:55	WU571
Shanghai – Wuhan	3 6	16:15	17:25	CZ3846
	4 7	14:35	15:50	CZ3848
	12 5	14:35	15:50	CZ3580
	1 3 56	14:15	15:25	WU502
	1234567	07:20	08:50	MU5323
	1234567	20:00	21:15	CZ3544
Wuhan – Shanghai	3 6	14:15	15:25	CZ3845
	4 7	07:35	08:45	CZ3847
	12 5	12:35	13:45	CZ3579
	1 3 56	12:15	13:25	WU501
	1234567	09:40	11:00	MU5324
	1234567	18:00	19:10	CZ3543
Shenzhen – Wuhan	1	13:30	15:10	CA1390
	3	19:15	20:45	CZ3370
	5	14:30	16:10	CZ3332
	7	20:45	22:25	CZ3992
	1 4	15:55	17:30	CZ3356
	1 6	08:40	10:20	4G897
	2 6	14:20	16:00	CZ3336
	2 5 7	10:15	11:50	WU322
	45 7	07:45	09:25	CZ3989
Wuhan – Shenzhen	1	11:00	12:40	CA1389
	3	16:50	18:25	CZ3369
	5	12:00	13:40	CZ3331
	7	18:15	19:50	CZ3991
	1 4	13:10	14:50	CZ3355
	1 6	11:05	12:45	4G898
	2 6	07:40	09:20	CZ3335
	2 5 7	07:50	09:25	WU321
	45 7	10:25	11:55	CZ3990

(Valid to October 1994)

EXECUTIVE
JOTTINGS

Major Hotels in Guangdong, Hubei and Shandong Provinces

Guangzhou. Guangdong

Bai Yun Hotel

白雲賓館
367 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060
Tel: 3333989 Telex: 44327 BYHTY CN
Fax: 3336498
700 rooms and suites Rates: Single US$308, double US$478-638 (all + 15%)
Located 10 min from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, ballroom, health centre, beauty salon, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Central Hotel

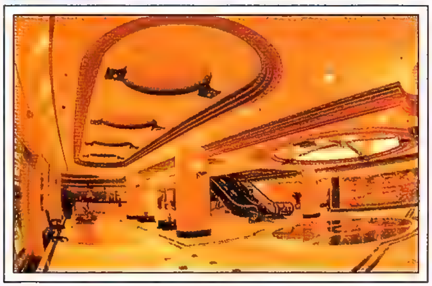
中央酒店
33 Jichang Road, Sanyuanli, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510015
Tel: 6678331 Telex: 44664 GLCSO CN
Fax: 6677014
Opened 28 September 1986
234 rooms and suites
Only minutes from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business offices, conference centre, swimming pool, gym, billiard room, karaoke, beauty parlour, shopping arcade

China Hotel

中國大酒店
Liuhua Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510015
Tel: 86-20-6666888 Telex: 44888 CHLGZE CN
Fax: 86-20-6677014
Opened June 1984
1,017 rooms Rate: Suite US$148 (+ 20%)
Located in city centre, 6 km from airport, 500 metres from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, ballroom, function rooms, tennis courts, swimming pool, shopping arcade, bowing centre, billiard room, health club, beauty salon, clinic

GITIC Riverside Hotel

廣信江灣大酒店



298 Yanjiang Road Central, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510100
Tel: 3839888 Telex: 440818 GXRSH CN
Fax: 3814448
331 rooms and suites Rates: Double US$80-118, suite US$198-238 (all + 20%)
Located 15 min from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, karaoke, gym, sauna, massage, tennis courts, swimming pool, beauty salon

Dong Fang Hotel

東方賓館
120 Liuhua Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510016
Tel: (86-20) 6669900 Telex: 44439 GZDFH CN
Fax: 6662775
GM: Chen Ru Feng
Opened 1961
1,300 rooms and suites Rates: Double US$110
Located 6 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 10
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese, French and American restaurants, business centre, convention centre, recreation centre, amusement park, tennis courts, sauna, swimming pool, bowling, clinic

Garden Hotel

花園酒店
368 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510064
Tel: (86-20) 3338989 Telex: 44788 GDHTL CN
Fax: (86-20) 3350467, 3350706
GM: Lawrence Boey
Opened 28 August 1985
1,112 rooms and 44 suites Rates: US$120-125
Located 9 km from airport, 4.5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 25; railway station Rmb ¥ 12
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, shopping arcade, gym, swimming pool, tennis courts, beauty salon, disco, billiard room, clinic, babysitting service

Holiday Inn City Centre Guangzhou

廣州文化假日酒店

Huanshi Dong, Overseas Chinese Village, 28 Guangming Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060
Tel: 7766999 Telex: 441045 HICCG CN
Fax: 7753126
Opened March 1991
391 rooms and 40 suites
Located 12 km/20 min from airport, 4 km/10 min from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, exhibition hall, function rooms, cinema, disco, bar, swimming pool, health club with gym, beauty salon

Hotel Equatorial Guangzhou

廣州貴都酒店
931 Renmin Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong
Tel: 6672888 Telex: 441168 EQUAT CN
Fax: 6672582, 6672586
Opened July 1989
310 rooms and suites
Located 15 min from airport, 5 min from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet and conference rooms, business and convention centre, swimming pool, health centre, karaoke, disco, babysitting service, medical service

Hotel Landmark Canton

華廈大酒店
8 Qiaoguang Road, Haizhu Square, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510115
Tel: (86-20) 3355988 Telex: 441288 HLC CN
Fax: (86-20) 3336197
GM: David Ng
Opened 26 February 1991
730 rooms and 51 suites Rates: Single/double US$95
Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport US$4; railway station US$2
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, food street, banquet hall, business centre, karaoke, bar, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, gym, clinic

Liuhua Hotel

流花賓館
194 Huanshi Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510017
Tel: 20-6668800 Telex: 44298 GZHH CN
Fax: 20-6667828
GM: Lin Jin Hai
Opened 14 October 1972
715 rooms and 45 suites Rates: US$45
Located 6 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 15
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, multi-purpose conference centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke

Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館
Tonghe, Shahe, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510515
Tel: 7706706 Telex: 44511 NANHU CN
Fax: 7706160
GM: Liang Hui
Opened April 1981
370 rooms Rates: US$35
Located in the northeastern suburbs, 15 km from airport, 12 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 60; railway station Rmb ¥ 5
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, amusement park, boats, horses, shooting range, villas, swimming pool, dance hall, shopping arcade, business facilities

Ocean Hotel

遠洋賓館
412 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510061
Tel: 7765988 Telex: 44638 GOHOL CN
Fax: 7765475
GM: Ma Rong
200 rooms and suites Rate: Double US$70-74, suite US$115
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, dance hall, disco, karaoke, gym, sauna, massage, beauty salon

Oriental Silk Hotel

東方絲綢大廈
752, Dongfeng Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510080
Tel: 7762888 Telex: 441181 OSH CN
Fax: 7750796
Opened 18 March 1990
262 rooms
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, conference hall, function and banquet rooms, coffee shop, silk shopping centre, karaoke, beauty salon, billiard rooms, health centre

Overseas Chinese Hotel (Guangzhou)

廣州華僑酒店
90 Zhanqian Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510010
Tel: 6663488 Telex: 441178 OCHTL CN
Fax: 6663230
Opened 1957
400 rooms and suites
Located 20 min from airport, 0.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference centre, business centre, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic, billiard room, ballroom

White Swan Hotel

白天鵝賓館

1 Southern Street, Shamian Island, Guangzhou,
Guangdong 510133
Tel: 8886968 Telex: 44688 WSJ CM
Fax: (86-20) 861188
GM: Yang Xiao Peng
Opened 6 February 1983
744 rooms and 81 suites Rates: US$140
Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, conference rooms, bar, coffee shop, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pools, health centre, tennis and squash courts, golf course, sauna, steambath, jacuzzi and massage room, beauty salon

Shenzhen, Guangdong

Century Plaza Hotel

[illegible]
Jianshe Road, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2220888 Telex: 420382 CPATL CN
Fax: 2234060
GM: Roger Fung
Opened April 1988
428 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 500 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, karaoke, nightclub, shopping arcade

China Regency Hotel

[illegible]
1 Bao'an Road North, Shenzhen 518002
Tel: 2260888 Fax: 2264495
GM: Du Xin
150 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, business centre, conference rooms, swimming pool, gym, sauna, massage, beauty salon, nightclub, karaoke, coffee shop, bar

City Hotel

[illegible]
2 Wenjin Road Central, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2257000 Fax: 2222765
300 rooms and suites
Located in commercial centre, 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, shopping aracde, swimming pool, disco, bar

Golden Lustre Hotel

[illegible]
59 Chunfeng Road, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2252640 Telex: 420517 GLHCA CN
Fax: 2255639
Opened 28 August 1988
336 rooms
Located in the city centre, 36 km from airport, 5 min from railway station
Facilities: Business rooms, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pool

Grand Skylight Hotel

[illegible]天大酒店
68 Shennan Road Central, Shenzhen 518031
Tel: 3363001 Telex: 420574 GSLH CN
Fax: 3362380
252 rooms
Located 35 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, karaoke, nightclub, shopping arcade

Guangdong Hotel

粵海酒店

130 Shennan Road East, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2228339 Telex: 420511 GDSZC CN
Fax: 2234560
GM: David Deng
Opened 23 December 1988
207 rooms
Located in the city centre, 30 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, karaoke, gym, dance hall, function rooms, bar

Hotel Oriental Regent

[illegible]
Hongling Road South, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2247000 Telex: 420474 OREGE CN
Fax: 2247290
407 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, conference rooms, gym, swimming pool, disco, karaoke, coffee shop, beauty salon, bar, tennis court

Hua Du Hotel

[illegible]
District 6, Bao'an, Shenzhen 518101
Tel: 7780888 Fax: 7783737
103 rooms
Located 8 km from airport, 28 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, conference room, dance hall, karaoke, business centre, beauty salon, bar

Nanhai Hotel

[illegible]

Shekou Industrial Zone, Shenzhen 518069
Tel: 6692888 Telex: 420879 NHHTL CN
Fax: 6692440
GM: Albert B.C. Young
Opened 26 March 1986
396 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 30 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, mini golf, swimming pool, tennis courts, gym, sauna, disco, karaoke, beauty salon, business centre, bar, function rooms, shopping arcade, coffee shop

Nanyang Hotel

[illegible]
A/Flat, Nanyang Building, Jianshe Road,
Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2224968 Telex: 420314 NYTCL CN
Fax: 2238927
181 rooms
Located 38 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, function rooms, billiard room, dance hall

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑大廈
68 Heping Road, Shenzhen 518010
Tel: 5564762, 5573811 Telex: 420368 SZOCB CN
Fax: 5572243
224 rooms and suites
Located 40 km from airport, 100 m from railway station
Facilities: Massage, beauty salon, clinic, shopping arcade

Shangri-La Hotel Shenzhen

深圳香格里拉酒店
East side, railway station, Jianshe Road, Shenzhen
518001
Tel: 2230888 Fax: 2239878
Opened 1992
553 rooms and suites
Located 38 km from airport, 170 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, 6 banquet rooms, 8 conference rooms, business centre, coffee shop, bar, nightclub, gym, sauna, massage, shopping arcade, swimming pool

Shenzhen Bay Hotel

[illegible]
Overseas Chinese Town, Shahe, Shenzhen 518053
Tel: 6600111 Telex: 420723 SBH CN
Fax: 6600139
GM: Chen Shihong
Opened October 1986
308 rooms and suites
Located 23 km from airport, 13 km from railway station
Facilities: Swimming pool, 6 Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference room, tennis courts, beauty salon, bar, karaoke, disco, gym

Shenzhen Continental Hotel

[illegible]
Shangbu Road North, Shenzhen 518029
Tel: 2263838 Telex: 420268 CSIEC CN
Fax: 2264139
GM: Brian Leong
Opened January 1993
220 rooms
Located 50 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, bar, sauna, beauty salon, nightclub, coffee shop, karaoke, gym

Shenzhen Far East Grand Hotel

[illegible]
104 Shennan Road East, Shenzhen 518002
Tel: 2205369 Telex: 420287 SHITC CN
Fax: 2200239
288 rooms
Located in city centre, 32 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, massage, beauty salon, bar, coffee shop

Shenzhen Friendship Hotel

[illegible]
3 Jiabin Road, Shenzhen 518001
Tel: 2238286 Telex: 420456 SZFCO CN
Fax: 2238008
GM: Liu Zhongzhi
Opened April 1982
200 rooms
Located 40 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference rooms, business centre, beauty salon, coffee shop, dance hall, shopping arcade

Wuhan, Hubei

Lijiang Hotel

[illegible]
1 Tiyuguan Road, Wuchang, Hubei 430071
Tel: 713668 Telex: 400282
Fax: 713638
Opened 1 November 1990
126 rooms and suites
Located 6 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, bar, business centre, billiard rooms, beauty salon, shopping arcade, clinic, disco

Qingchuan Hotel

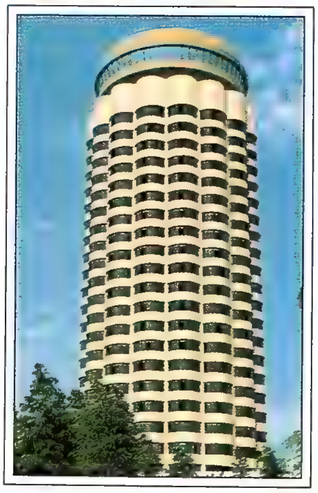
晴川飯店

88 Ximachang Street, Hanyang, Wuhan 430050
Tel: 446688, 444181 Telex: 41034 HBQC CN
Fax: (027) 564964
GM: Jiang Wu Yi
Opened July 1984
300 rooms and suites
Located in the city centre, 15 km from airport, 13 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, business centre, bar, billiard room, sauna, beauty salon, massage, clinic, gym, tennis court, karaoke

Wuhan Asia Hotel

[illegible]



300 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: (027) 568777, 566245 Fax: (027) 559372, 556786
265 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurant, conference room, banquet room, swimming pool, karaoke, disco, nightclub, bar, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Yangtze Hotel

[illegible]

539 Jiefang Avenue, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: 562828 Telex: 40204 (40205) YGHTE CN
Fax: 554110
GM: Iron Chung
Opened 28 April 1987
205 rooms and suites
Located in the heart of Wuhan, 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, banquet room, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, billiard room, clinic, games room, business centre, bar

Yichang, Hubei

Taohualing Hotel

[illegible]

29 Yunji Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: (0717) 222515 Fax: 445701
GM: Xianyu Kaiguo
Opened 1 October 1957
275 rooms
Located in the heart of the city, 25 km from airport, 0.7 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, dance hall, bar, karaoke, gym, billiard room, massage, beauty salon, health club

Three Gorges Hotel

[illegible]

38 Yanjiang Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: 224911, 223438 Telex: 40253 YSXBG CN
Fax: (0717) 442025
GM: Lee Mingyi
Opened October 1986
132 rooms and suites
Located 10 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, dance hall, bar, shopping arcade

Jinan, Shandong

Jinan Hotel

[illegible]

240 Jingsan Road, Jinan, Shandong 250021
Tel: (0531) 7938981, 7938985 Telex: 39106 TSHJN CN
Fax: (0531) 732906
GM: Zhang Shangying
Opened 1958
73 rooms
Located in the heart of downtown, 6 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, billiard room, bar, function room, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Qilu Hotel

[illegible]

8 Qianfoshan Road, Jinan, Shandong 250014
Tel: (0531) 2966888 Telex: 39142 QLHJN CN
Fax: (0531) 613524
GM: Wang Zhixian
Opened 15 April 1986
246 rooms and suites
Located at the foot of Qianfo Mountain south of the city, 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, bar, ballroom, tennis court, karaoke, disco, gym, billiard room, sauna, massage

Shungeng Hillview Hotel

[illegible]

1 Shungeng Road, Jinan, Shandong 250014
Tel: 6915901 Telex: 39184 MTCJN CN
Fax: (0531) 615288
GM: Zou Benzi
Opened August 1985
130 rooms
Located 9.7 km from city centre, 30 min from airport, 15 min from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, conference room, function hall, shopping arcade, billiard room, gym, beauty salon, clinic

Qingdao, Shandong

Badaguan Hotel Qingdao

[illegible]

19 Shanhaiguan Road, Qingdao, Shangdong 266071
Tel: 3872168 Telex: 32224 BDGHL CN
Fax: (0532) 371383
GM: Zheng Huai
Opened 3 June 1949
260 rooms
Located in city centre, 32 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Japanese restaurants, banquet room, business centre, souvenir shop, bar, indoor swimming pool, sauna, function hall, beauty salon, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, tennis court, billiard room

Dongfang Hotel

[illegible]

4 Daxue Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: 2865888 Telex: 321221 DFHQD CN
Fax: 262741
GM: Qu Ruci
Opened 26 December 1989
132 rooms and suites
Located 33 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, dance hall, shopping arcade

Haitian Hotel

[illegible]

39 Zhanshan Avenue, Qingdao, Shandong 266071
Tel: 3871888, 3866415 Telex: 321014 QDHTH CN
Fax: 371152, 371777
GM: Xin Keting
Opened 28 October 1988
700 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Western restaurants, 500-seat banquet room, 800-seat conference hall, business centre, karaoke, disco, indoor swimming pool, sauna, gym, tennis court, billiard room, AMF bowling centre

Huanghai Hotel

[illegible]

75 First Yan'an Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: (0532) 2870215 Telex: 32151 BOOTH CN
Fax: (0532) 279795
GM: Zhai Shende
Opened 18 May 1983
350 rooms
Located in centre city, 35 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Japanese restaurants, conference halls and rooms, multi-function hall, business centre, dance hall, karaoke, billiard room, gym, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic

Huiquan Dynasty Hotel

[illegible]

9 Nanhai Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: 2879279 Telex: 32178 HQDTY CN
Fax: 279220
GM: Werner Katte
Opened 3 August 1986
500 rooms
Located near Badaguan Scenic Area and commercial centre with a picturesque view of Huiquan Bay, 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Revolving restaurant, business centre, tennis courts, bowling, indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna

Qingdao Guest House

[illegible]

26 Lonshan Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266003
Tel: (0532) 2866120, 2865465 Telex: 32180 YBGQD CN
Fax: (0532) 261985
GM: Fu Tian
Opened 1903
10 suites
Located in the heart of city, 28 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Business centre, meeting room, shopping arcade, karaoke, dance hall, billiard room

Qingdao Ocean Hotel

[illegible]

61 Zhanliugan Road, Qingdao, Shandong 266071
Tel: 5815188 Telex: 32237 COSQD CN
Fax: (0532) 515198
GM: Dong Qingbo
100 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet room, meeting rooms, billiard room, karaoke, ballroom, shopping arcade, beauty salon

NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

141 Buddhist Relics Found in Pagoda

One of China's most important discoveries to date of rare Buddhist relics was made recently at a pagoda in Shandong Province's Wenshang County. Located 50 kilometres west of Qufu, the hometown of Confucius, the pagoda is 13 storeys high and was built 882 years ago during the Song Dynasty, when Buddhism flourished in this area.

Inside the pagoda was a stone casket, inside of which was a gold coffin surrounded by valuable Buddhist objects: a silver statue of a Bodhisattva, a stone carving of Maitreya Buddha, crystal beads, bottles, gold bars and silver. Inside of the gold coffin was a silver coffin, which in turn contained a wooden box, and inside of that was what obviously was considered the finest treasure — a tooth, thicker and longer than is common, apparently that of a Buddha or Bodhisattva. Surrounding the wooden box were 936 sariras, or the naturally formed crystals sometimes found in the ashes of cremated Buddhist practitioners.

Called Taizi Lingzong, the pagoda is now under renovation, and the relics are temporarily housed in a local temple, attracting continuous streams of pilgrims and other visitors. Wenshang County is raising funds for the rebuilding of Baoxiang Temple, located near the pagoda, where the relics will be kept once construction is completed.

4,500-Year-Old Houses

Twenty-five houses built 4,500 years ago were recently discovered in a town called Dawenkou, north of the city of Qufu in Shandong Province. In addition to the houses themselves, many objects made of stone and bone, pottery shards and pieces of jade were found as well, providing researchers with valuable material on life in ancient times.

Two Important Findings in Jiangsu

Just 400 metres away from the terracotta warriors discovered ten years ago in Xuzhou, a city in northern Jiangsu Province, another incredible finding was made recently: the tomb belonging to the man for whom the terracotta warriors were made. Initial reports say that the body has been identified as Liu Wu, a prince from the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220).

Also in Jiangsu, in the southern city of Yangzhou, an archaeological team has discovered a buried river-bed and several wells dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It has been determined that the river-bed was a canal used for transporting grain to the then capital of Chang'an (present-day Xi'an). As the 13 wells were built using four different methods, it is believed that they were built over several consecutive dynasties.

Neolithic Habitation on Yangtse

Preparatory work for the construction of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway has yielded an important discovery near Wuxue, a city along the Yangtse River in the west of Hubei Province. A site dating back to the Neolithic Age some 5,500 years ago was found, and excavations so far have uncovered 244 tombs, the remains of five houses, 268 ash pits and over 4,000 objects made of earth, jade, bronze, granite, marble, limestone and other types of stone. The tombs varied in size and in the amount of funerary articles found inside, indicating for the first time ever that there were class distinctions during that period.

CULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Temple for Women Open at Huangshan

China's only well-preserved temple exclusively for women has opened to the public at the foot of picturesque Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province. Located in Shexian County, the temple is comprised of two sections — one for worshipping heroines from Chinese history and the other for exhibiting displays of ancient wedding customs in China. The 300-square-metre temple was built during the Qing Dynasty between 1796 and 1820 by a local family who has lived in the area for generations.

Exhibit of Ningxia Artifacts in Beijing

From June 3 to September 3 the Palace Museum in Beijing is hosting an exhibit on the ancient culture of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. On display are a selection of artifacts belonging to the Ningxia Museum, which are currently housed in two halls at Yongshou Palace in the Forbidden City. In one hall are relics from the Old Stone Age, the Hun (Xiongnu) people, the Silk Road and the Western Xia Dynasty, which ruled this region from 1038-1227. The oldest of these objects dates back to the Shuidonggou Culture which existed in the Ningxia area some 30,000 years ago. In the second hall are rubbings taken from Ningxia's Helan Mountain rock paintings, which are believed to have been done by a primitive nomadic people.

Buddhist Museum Open at Leshan

Sichuan Province's city of Leshan — the location of the world's largest seated Buddha statue — has recently opened a new museum of Buddhist art. Called the Oriental Buddhist Capital, the museum is the largest of its kind in Asia and covers an area of 20 hectares.

In related news, a lighting system has been installed at the Leshan Grand Buddha so that visitors can enjoy the 71-metre-tall statue at night as well as during the daytime.

Upcoming Events in Jingdezhen

The city of Jingdezhen in the far north of Jiangxi Province is hosting two tourist events in the coming months. The first will be a national tourist shopping festival from September 1-4, and the second is the Fifth International Ceramic Festival, slated for October 11-14. The latter coincides with the city's 990th anniversay. Established in 1004, Jingdezhen has long been known as an important centre for porcelain production.

Liangzhu Culture Museum Open

A new museum just outside of Hangzhou, the capital of Zhejiang Province, has opened recently called the Liangzhu Culture Museum. Liangzhu Culture dates back to Neolithic times around 5,000 years ago, and represents one of the earliest known periods of Chinese civilization in the Yangtse River area. The museum is located in Yuhang County in a town called Liangzhu, and has on exhibit many artifacts such as pottery from that time.

Beijing's Ethnic Culture Park Open

The city of Beijing has opened a new tourist attraction to show visitors how some of China's national minorities live. Called the Chinese Ethnic Culture Park and located next to the Asian Games Village, the park is divided into a north and south section. Currently only the 20-hectare North Park is open, which highlights the life styles of 16 minority groups. The buildings are all replicas of originals, and visitors can enjoy song and dance performances typical of the different ethnic groups. The 25-hectare South Park will be completed by the end of 1996.

Site to Display Guo Relics

The city of Sanmenxia, located just west of Luoyang in Henan Province, is currently building a scenic spot to house over 5,000 relics from the ancient Guo Kingdom (11th century-655 B.C.) that once ruled this area. The relics were unearthed in 1990 and were designated one of the nation's ten most important archaeological discoveries of the past decade.

TOURIST INFORMATION

China's Own Orient Express

China's most popular train, the China Orient Express, is making some 40 trips this year, double the number made last year. The China Orient Express connects up with the European Orient Express at three places: Alataw in the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, and Erlianhot and Manzhouli in Inner Mongolia. From those places the train takes tourists sightseeing all over China, and can accommodate 96 passengers in one trip. The train is equipped with only soft sleeper coaches, which have private washrooms, dining rooms and bars. One of the favourite routes for foreign tourists is a two-week trip along the Silk Road, which costs US$1,600. Plans are underway to build two new Orient Express trains, which will be ready for service next year.

Special Tour in Jilin

Tonghua City, in the southernmost corner of Jilin Province, has commenced a new tourist programme called the '94 Tonghua and Ji'an Historical Sites Tour. Tonghua is in the Changbai Mountain area, and boasts scenic spots, historical sites and four national forest parks. The city of Ji'an is located just west of Tonghua on the border with North Korea, and is the site of many Korean relics dating back to 1,500 years ago.

Scientific Exploration Tours Begin

Under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Sciences — which runs over 100 research institutes and 200 observation stations across the country — a new organization has been set up to cater to the needs of travellers interested in scientific exploration. Called the China Science International Travel Service (CSITS), the new body will focus on bringing not only scientists but also adventurers and tourists to places not normally open to them, such as natural reserves, biological observation centres and laboratories.

50% Discount at Regency Hotel in Beijing

If you can show proof that you have stayed previously at any other hotel's Executive Floor, you qualify for a special first-time guest discount at the Royal Regency Club in Beijing. Valid until September of this year, the special discount means that guests can stay on the Regency's Executive Floor for only half the normal rate, if they can provide the required proof upon check-in. In addition to the 50 per cent price discount, you will also receive complimentary breakfast and an extra 10 per cent off all the Regency's restaurants and bars for the duration of your stay. The Royal Regency Club is located inside the Guangdong Regency Hotel on 2 Wangfujing Avenue in Beijing, and can be reached by telephone at (861) 531-6666, or at fax number 513-4248.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Urümqi-Islamabad

Xinjiang Airlines has started running weekly flights every Sunday between Xinjiang's capital of Urümqi and Islamabad, the Pakistani capital. This is the highest air route in the world, as it flies over the Karakoram Mountains and K-2, the world's second highest mountain. The 1,730-kilometre route takes about two and a half hours.

Wuyishan-Hong Kong

Tourists planning a visit to the beautiful Wuyishan Mountains in northern Fujian Province can now fly there directly from Hong Kong. At present, the Wuyishan Airport offers only charter services to Hong Kong, but also has domestic routes to Xiamen and Fuzhou, also in Fujian, and the city of Shanghai.

Changchun-Shantou

Flights have started recently connecting up the northern city of Changchun in Jilin Province with Shantou in southern Guangdong Province. The flight has one stopover in the city of Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province.

Beijing-Yanji

A new air route has opened to cater for tourists from South Korea who want to visit Jilin Province's Changbai Mountains. The flight will run round-trip every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday between Beijing and Yanji, a city in Jilin that borders North Korea.

Jinan-Seoul

The province of Shandong in northern China has started a new international route, linking up the city of Jinan with Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The chartered flight uses an MD-82 jetliner and leaves Jinan every Thursday morning.

Sanya Airport Open

Hainan Island's second airport opened on July 1 of this year in the southern city of Sanya. The US$170-million airport was completed in May, and is operating 24 routes and 132 flights per week.

OTHER NEWS

Botanical Garden Joins Int'l Body

China's largest botanical garden, the third in the country, has recently become a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Located in Gansu Province, the garden is named the Maiji Botanical Garden, after the adjoining Maiji Grottoes. The garden contains 1,840 different species of herbs and trees, including some that are rare medical, ornamental or endangered species.

Henan-Zhejiang Railway Partly Open

A new railway has partially opened, connecting up Henan, Anhui and Zhejiang provinces. The 830-kilometre-long railway will begin in the city of Shangqiu, in the far western corner of Henan, cross the border to Anhui and run south to Fuyang, then to the capital city of Hefei, through Wuhu and Xuanzhou, cross over to Zhejiang Province and end at Hangzhou. Construction began in 1988, and so far a 116-kilometre-section stretching from Xuanzhou in Anhui to a town called Changxing just over the border in Zhejiang has been put into service.

Guangxi-Yunnan Railway

A new railway is currently under construction in southern China, and when completed will link up Guangxi and Yunnan provinces. So far over 100 kilometres of track have been laid in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and by next year that figure should reach 150 kilometres.

Beijing Gongmei Group (formerly Beijing Arts and Crafts Corporation) is a comprehensive import and export holdings company. Our major business activity is dealing in arts and crafts items, however we also engage in scientific research, production management, education, publishing, and the processing of imported materials according to given designs. The group owns about 60 industrial and commercial enterprises, 21 joint-ventures and 1 overseas trading branch.

More than 50 kinds of our products, including special handicrafts, carpets and drawnworks, have won both national and international prizes. The group has set up good business relationships with foreign countries, with over 10,000 kinds of arts and crafts exported to more than 130 countries and regions in the world.

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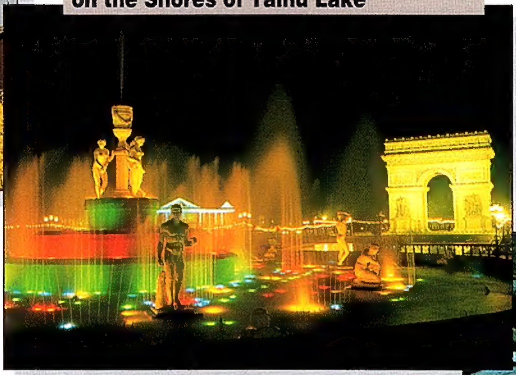
NEXT ISSUE

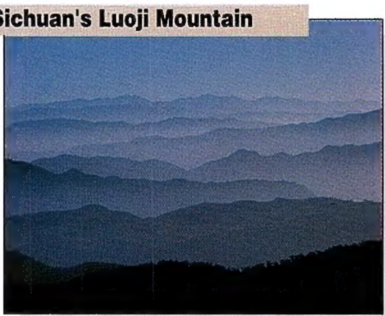
In our next issue we will be featuring several articles on the historic city of Xuzhou in Jiangsu Province, as well as looking at a film and TV studio built at Taihu Lake in the same province. The Nujiang Canyon in Yunnan Province is a natural marvel, full of exotic scenery and interesting minority groups seldom seen by outsiders. Also still largely unexplored is Luoji Mountain in Sichuan's far southern corner, and we will also take a look at the city of Zhangzhou in Fujian Province.

Xuzhou Special Features

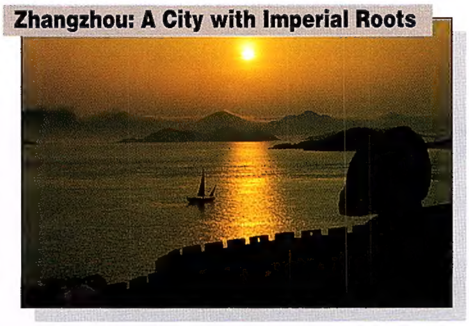
A Step Back in Time: CCTV's Studios on the Shores of Taihu Lake



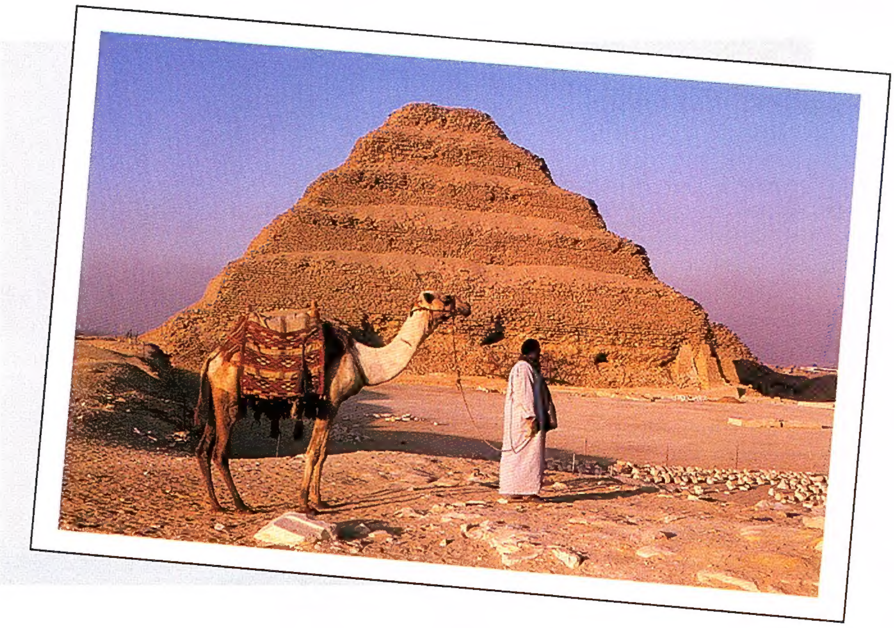
Scaling Sichuan's Luoji Mountain



Zhangzhou: A City with Imperial Roots



Travels Along the Nujiang – The World's Second Largest Canyon



JH145

INTRODUCTION TO CHINA JIALING INDUSTRY CO., LTD. (GROUP)

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group) is the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in China and also an export-based enterprise for state mechanical electrical products, and is authorized to do both import and export business.

The main products of this corporation are a series of Jialing Brand Motorcycles such as CJ50-I, CJ50-II, CJ50F, JH50, JH70-I, JH70-II, JH125, JH125L, JH145 and their parts. We also produce Jialing shotgun cartridges, industrial steel balls, bearings and complete sets of equipment. Among these products, Models CJ50 and JH70 motorcycles were each awarded the State's highest silver prize, Model JH125 won the "JUNMA CUP" prize for the State's Newly Developed Products and Jialing's 12-guage shotgun cartridges won the State's silver prize.

Now the corporation has an annual capacity of more than 500,000 series of motorcycles, 600,000 sets of key engine parts with a displacement from 70cm^3 to 125cm^3, and 15,000,000 rounds of plastic case shotgun cartridges. Our economic indexes are ranked first among similar domestic trade. In 1990, the corporation was assessed as a National First Grade Enterprise. In recent years it has maintained its title of one of China's 500 large-scale enterprises and enjoys a good reputation both in domestic and foreign markets.

We welcome all friends from home and abroad to write, telephone or come to visit our corporation to undertake co-operative production, joint ventures, compensation trade and processing and assembling according to materials and samples supplied.

JH125A

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China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group)

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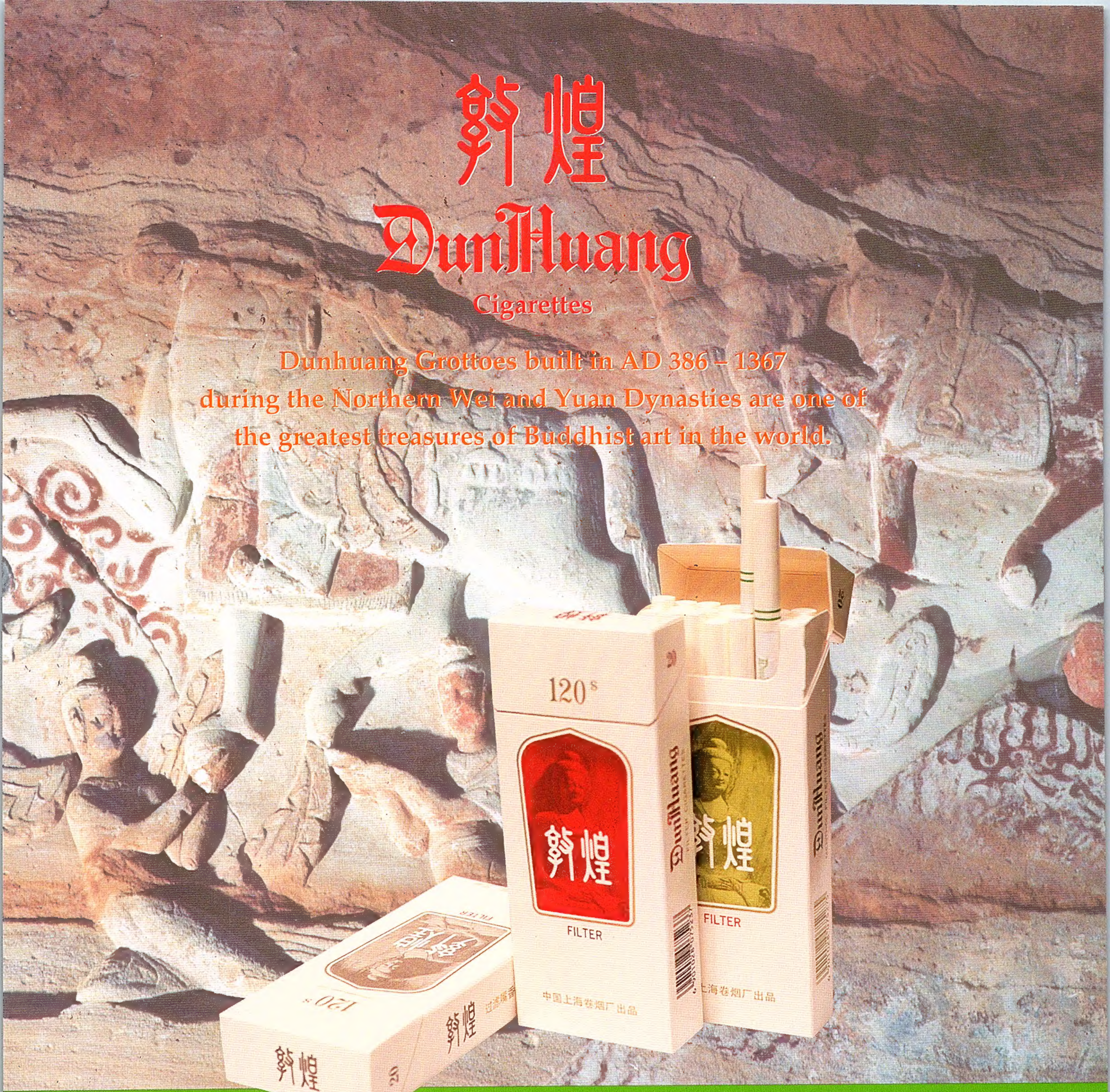
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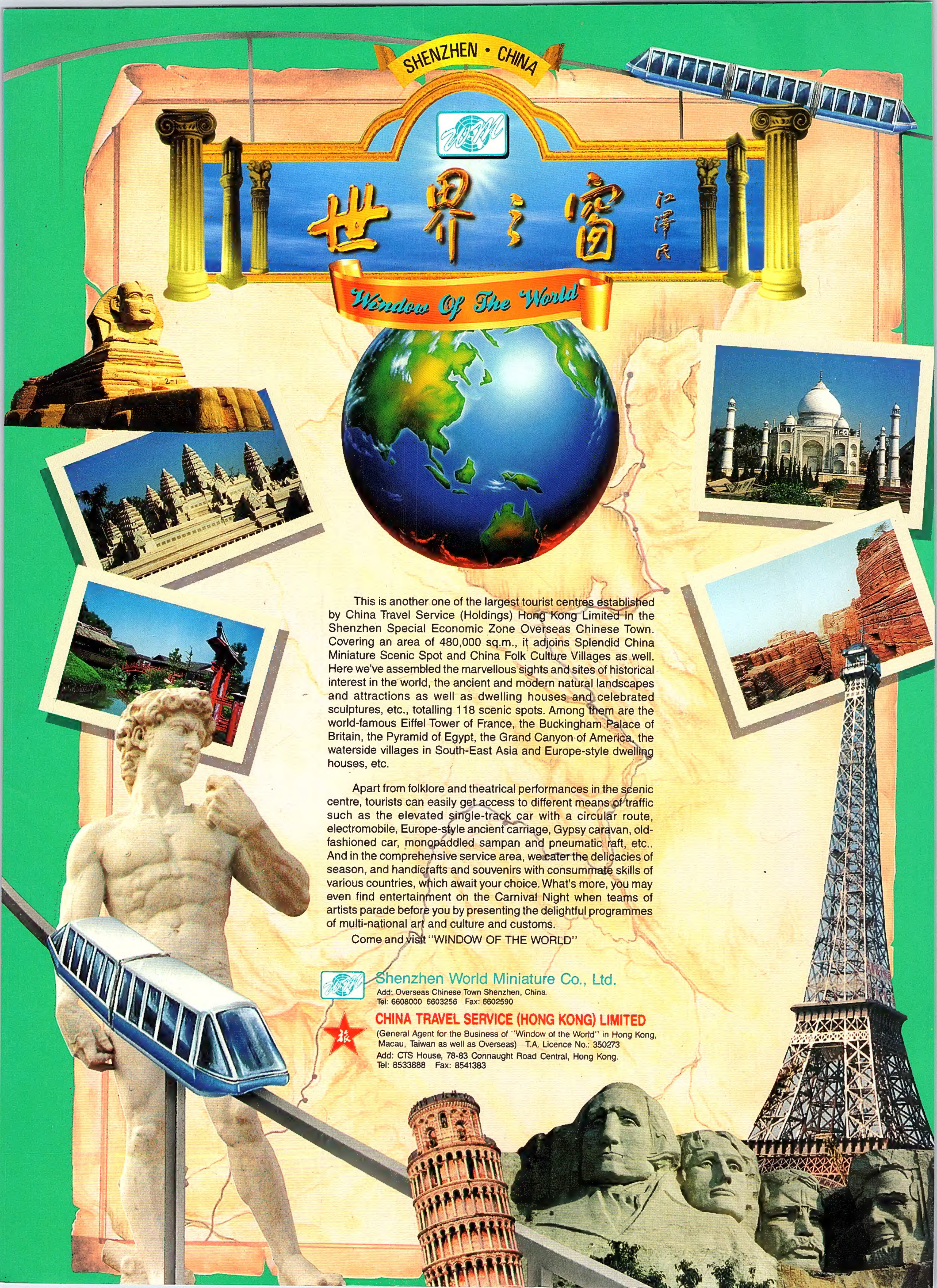

This is another one of the largest tourist centres established by China Travel Service (Holdings) Hong Kong Limited in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Overseas Chinese Town. Covering an area of 480,000 sq.m., it adjoins Splendid China Miniature Scenic Spot and China Folk Culture Villages as well. Here we've assembled the marvellous sights and sites of historical interest in the world, the ancient and modern natural landscapes and attractions as well as dwelling houses and celebrated sculptures, etc., totalling 118 scenic spots. Among them are the world-famous Eiffel Tower of France, the Buckingham Palace of Britain, the Pyramid of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of America, the waterside villages in South-East Asia and Europe-style dwelling houses, etc.

Apart from folklore and theatrical performances in the scenic centre, tourists can easily get access to different means of traffic such as the elevated single-track car with a circular route, electromobile, Europe-style ancient carriage, Gypsy caravan, old-fashioned car, monopaddled sampan and pneumatic raft, etc.. And in the comprehensive service area, we cater the delicacies of season, and handicrafts and souvenirs with consummate skills of various countries, which await your choice. What's more, you may even find entertainment on the Carnival Night when teams of artists parade before you by presenting the delightful programmes of multi-national art and culture and customs.

Come and visit "WINDOW OF THE WORLD"

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